

West's defence at risk in Civil Service strikes

Britain's Nato allies are deeply concerned by a union plan for selective strikes of key defence workers after today's 24-hour protest stoppage by civil servants over pay. The country's secret surveillance communications network would be disrupted and, union leaders say, "there will be both national and international repercussions".

Selective action after 24-hour stoppage

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The defence capability of the West will be undermined and British tax-gathering severely disrupted by selective strikes among civil servants being mounted in the wake of today's 24-hour protest stoppage over pay.

A top-level warning has been given to union leaders that their plan to call out fewer than 100 key workers in Britain's secret communications surveillance network is causing deep concern among Nato allies.

Union leaders last night refused to give details of their disruption programme, but understood that members of three different unions are to strike at government communications headquarters in Cheltenham and at the secret tracking station in Bude, Cornwall.

Ministers have warned the unions that the United States Government is deeply concerned by the impact of such action on the surveillance of Soviet warship movements and on the strategic cover of top-secret signals traffic.

Civil Service union leaders who yesterday announced their "transformation" of industrial action would only say: "There will be a range of selective and disruptive action which will affect Britain's secret communications surveillance network."

There will be both national and international repercussions. The Reagan administration has already indicated that the United States funding of the stations and listening devices might be stopped if the Americans cannot be satisfied that the system will be isolated from the industrial relations crisis in Britain's secret service.

Computer operators being brought out

But the disruption also extends to naval and RAF supply and communications facilities, and the Polaris submarine base at Clyde. The unions confidently expect that Britain will have to pull out of the biennial "Winter" military exercise which amounts to a Nato dry-run of preparations for a total war with the Soviet Union.

If that happens, it will be for the second time. Civil Service strikes caused Britain to withdraw from the exercise in 1979.

Mr William Kendall, general secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions (CCSU), said yesterday: "We are fed up with the Whitehall brotly-broglie. People should know there are many thousands of civil servants who do not wear striped pants and work in offices, but are scientists, technicians and engineers."

The unions are bringing out computer operators at the naval supply centres at Eastleigh, near Middlesbrough, Llangennech, near Swansea, and Enfield, Bath, which they say will mean "delays and chaos for Nato".

Computers will also be stopped at the naval dockyards at Chatham, Portsmouth, Devon-

port and Rosyth. Administrative staff are to strike at the Clyde submarine base, disrupting operations "and specifically the availability of the Polaris missiles".

Maintenance engineers have been called out at the RAF Communications Centre, Pirbright, Fife, which runs a vital Nato system, and testing engineers at Rosyth are to walk out, halting the testing of warship equipment and weaponry.

In all, more than 300 key defence personnel are being called out on indefinite strike from tomorrow. They will be paid 85 per cent of normal gross wages from union strike funds.

The unions also plan to disrupt the implementation of tomorrow's Budget and then gradually seize up the tax collection system. About 40 telegraphic staff at Somerset House will refuse to print the new forms required by tax changes, and excise and VAT staff who normally open the Chancellor of the Exchequer's instructions and act upon them immediately will walk out before he rises in the Commons. That will delay higher taxes on petrol, cigarettes and drink.

VAT payments flow will be halted

Greater dislocation of government finances will arise from a strike by 250 computer operators at the VAT centre in Southampton. Industrial action will halt the flow of VAT payments worth £350m a week to the Treasury.

Mr Kendall argued: "As VAT collection grinds to a halt, the Government will be forced to borrow more and force up interest rates to get the money."

Recalling that the 1979 strikes had obliged the Chancellor to increase borrowing by 20 per cent and had forced up interest rates, he added: "We hope to blow the Government's economic strategy right off course."

The VAT banking unit will cease to operate for the strike, and accounting of VAT receipts will be suspended. Computer operators at the Paymaster General's office in Crawley—the banker for all government departments—will rob ministers of information on how their cash limits policy is working.

There will be further disruption of driving tests, and a wide range of selective and lightning action "at ports and airports. Staff at Heathrow walked out last night."

The unions are determined to force the Cabinet to increase its 7 per cent pay offer and restore the system of pay comparability. Contingency plans: The Government last night put a brave face on the announcement of Civil Service strike targets (Our Political Editor writes). Each department, it was said in Whitehall, had prepared its own contingency plans.

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Battle of nerves, page 12
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Chancellor set to raise taxes by £3,000m

By David Blake
and Fred Emery

A black Budget pushing up taxes by more than £3,000m is likely to be announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, tomorrow. The tax rises will mean sharp increases in the price of beer and other drinks, petrol and cigarettes.

Income tax allowances are likely to be raised by only five per cent instead of the 15 per cent to meet inflation, which means that the real burden of tax will rise for all but the poorest.

Reports over the weekend suggested that beer would rise by 3p a pint, petrol by 15p a gallon and cigarettes by 12p for a packet of 20. Wine is thought likely to get off fairly easily, going up by between 10p and 12p a bottle, but spirits may rise by more than 60p a bottle.

These increases in most cases would represent a 30 per cent rise since the last Budget, twice the increase justified by straight application of the inflation rate to the end of last year.

Ministers will say that the real value of duty has been falling for many years and that they are just restoring some of its value. Big increases are inevitable and if a full 30 per cent goes through it would raise more than £1,800m from consumers.

The only slightly bright note for families is the prospect of a 10 per cent increase in child benefit. Combined with £1,500m saved by not giving full increase in tax allowances, this will be used to cut the Government deficit.

Big cash handouts for industry are unlikely although heavy oil duty may be cut.

The Budget is expected to contribute £5,000m to the deflation of the economy when combined with increases in insurance contributions and other measures announced last autumn.

But interest rates will be cut, probably by 2 or 3 per cent, and the Chancellor may have some words of encouragement for industrialists worried about the impact of the strong pound on their competitiveness.

The Budget is likely to be a final attempt to restore credit to the Government's financial strategy.

Gloomy Treasury forecasts presented to the Chancellor as he prepared the measures emphasised the fact that public borrowing and growth of the money supply this year are well above target.

Borrowing during this financial year is expected to be £3,000m more than planned at about £13,500m and measures are needed to bring next year's forecast borrowing down to about £11,000m.

Even this figure is far above the £7,500m estimate contained in the strategy, which was produced at the time of the last Budget. But the Government believes that the extra borrowing is caused by recession which is deeper than expected and does not jeopardize control of money growth.

Treasury officials now expect the economy to keep sliding downhill until the summer, instead of levelling out about now as they were predicting only a few months ago.

This and a failure to cut spending has pushed borrowing up to a level which is thought to put the Government's strategy at risk.

Although the main thrust of that policy is likely to be reaffirmed by the Chancellor tomorrow, there are expected to be changes in the money supply is controlled and the form in which monetary targets are set.

The Government hopes that a cut in interest rates will both encourage stockbuilding and investment and get the pound to a more competitive level. It is felt that high public borrowing may have hurt the economy by forcing up interest rates and thus attracting money from abroad.

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Most of Suchitoto's inhabitants have fled, leaving ransacked buildings and political graffiti An eerily empty town reflects the tragedy of El Salvador

From Michael Leapman
Suchitoto, El Salvador, March 8

It is hard to tell whether the people of this once pleasant town, 30 miles north-east of San Salvador, agree with President Reagan's policy of using their country as a proving ground for his determination to thwart communism. It is hard because not many of them are still here.

Two-thirds of the population of some 20,000 have fled since the town became the site of a battle between leftist guerrillas and government forces during the guerrillas' final offensive in January. Many are housed in pathetic conditions at La

Bermuda, a refugee camp in a former colonial farmstead eight miles away.

The town, the refugee camp and the dangerous hills surrounding them are a microcosm of the disaster afflicting this country. They make a textbook study of how a political conflict turns into a contest for power and survival, fuelled by greed and hatred. On the ground here, it has little to do with ideology.

As the visitor drives in, the streets are eerily empty. Notices first the burnt-out petrol stations, then the ransacked buildings, the left-wing political graffiti scrawled on the walls.

On the main square, the Catholic church stands miraculously unharmed. Opposite, shops with blackened walls have been boarded up.

On the cobbled streets leading off the square to military headquarters, a score or more women and children queue with pans for water from an army tanker. The main supply was destroyed by a guerrilla bomb two weeks ago. Further on, is a burnt-out bus, the international symbol of turmoil.

Down another street is the Cafe Cantikal, where a black-

bearded gunman wearing a straw stetson and with a 38

calibre pistol sticking out of his trouser belt explained his role in the conflict. He was a member of the civil patrol, an informal militia that helps the Army and security services and from whose ranks the "death squads" who murder suspected leftists are believed to be drawn.

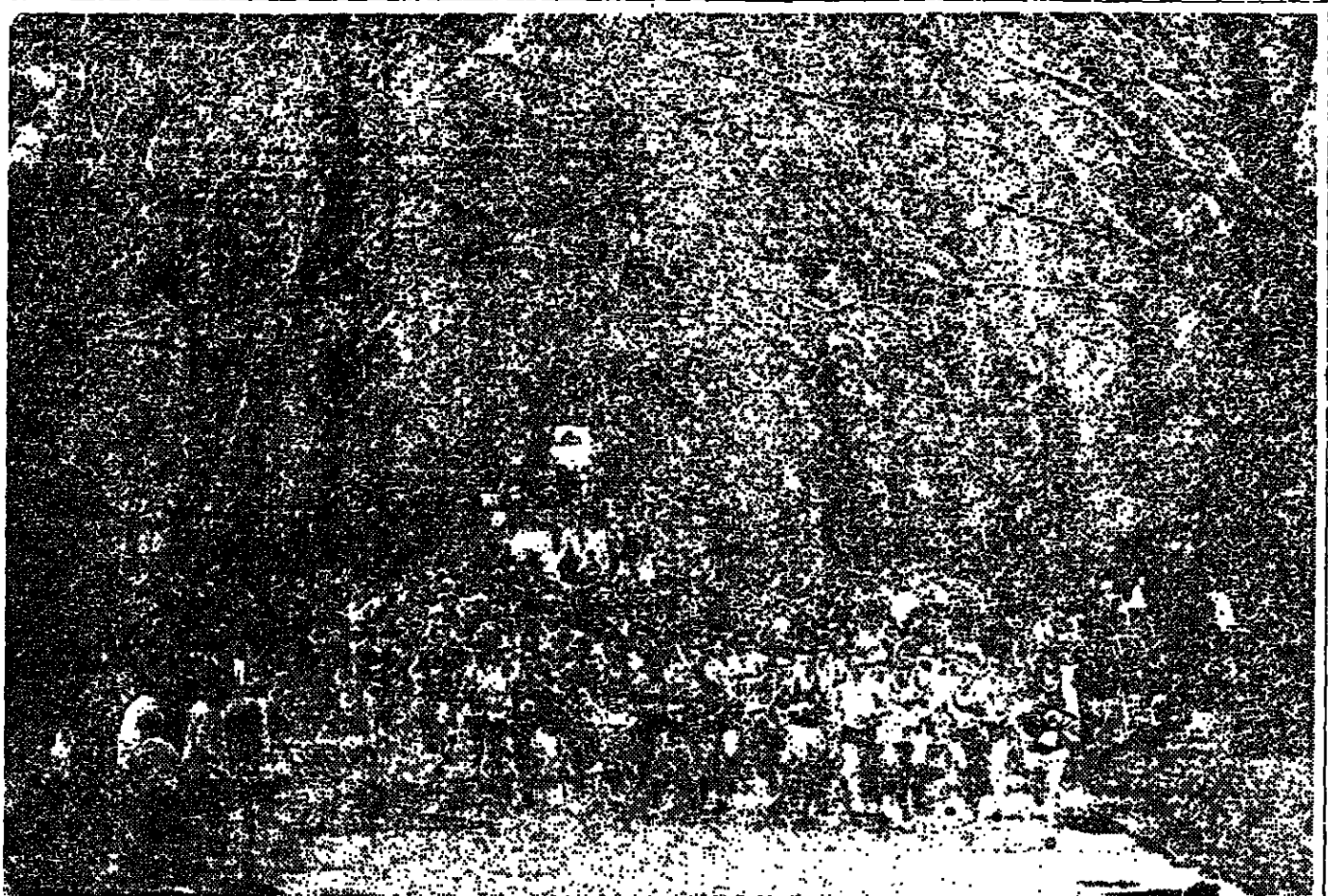
He described atrocities by following guerrillas when the town was in their hands briefly during the January offensive. "They rounded up people and tied bags over their heads," he said. "Then they tied them up

together and set off a Claymore mine under them."

Next day, he said, they killed seven more and began burning sugar and coffee fields. What would he do if he caught one of those responsible? "I would make them pay for it," he said. "We never take prisoners."

Tales of horror by the right are offered by inmates of La Bermuda refugee camp down the road, where 1,400 dirty and bedraggled people, mostly children, have fled from the turmoil of the war.

Many children have spots, rashes and infectious diseases. Continued on page 6, col 6



Runners practising in Battersea Park yesterday for the Gillette London Marathon on March 29

Diplomatic campaign mounted by Moscow

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Mr Victor Popov, the Soviet Ambassador, is to call on Mrs Margaret Thatcher today to deliver a letter believed to contain a message from President Brezhnev explaining his recent proposals for a summit meeting with President Reagan.

Similar letters were delivered at the weekend to Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and President Giscard d'Estaing in Paris.

Although details of the contents have not been revealed, the letters are presumed to elaborate on the views expressed by the Soviet leader at last month's Communist Party Congress in Moscow.

In what was considered to be a definitive statement of Soviet policy, Mr Brezhnev called for a meeting with President Reagan and offered to halt the development of Russian submarines and to extend military confidence-building measures if the West did the same. He agreed to a proposal from France that advance notification should be extended for military exercises in European Russia, up to the Urals.

He also called on Nato to stop the deployment of American missiles in Europe.

Washington has reacted cautiously to Mr Brezhnev's overtures as the Soviet leader attempts to win concerted European support for his summit initiative.

His letter to Herr Schmidt was delivered on Saturday, the day before Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, flew to Washington for talks. Herr Schmidt said in a West German radio interview yesterday that he

would advise Mr Reagan to meet Mr Brezhnev.

Mrs Thatcher, who conferred with Mr Reagan in Washington ten days ago, favours a cool response to the summit.

Normal follow-up tactics: The Russians normally follow up any proposals which they advance publicly with private messages and diplomacy and this is not the first time that Mr Brezhnev has sent personal letters to West European leaders (Michael Binyon writes from Moscow).

These messages generally come after any initiative that the Soviet Union regards as particularly important, especially if public reaction in the West is good. Mr Brezhnev repeatedly urged Western leaders not to accept the American proposals to develop the neutron bomb and also urged them to think again just before Nato agreed to deploy new American nuclear missiles in Europe in 1979.

Mr Brezhnev's letter to President Giscard, said to run to 11 pages, comes just as the French presidential election campaign gathers momentum and President Giscard will clearly try to show that his offer on extending confidence-building measures was instrumental in getting a change in Soviet policy.

That is a point the Russians hope will strengthen their argument for the West to take up Moscow's offers.

But Moscow has little hope of Mr Brezhnev's letter having any influence on Mrs Thatcher since she has already made her tough anti-Soviet views clear in recent statements in Washington.

Genscher visit, page 5

Kabul hijackers fly out with 111 hostages

Islamabad, March 8.—A Pakistani airliner hijacked by

Afghanistan seven days ago left Kabul today for Lamascus with 111 hostage passengers and crew apparently still on board, a Pakistani Government official said.

The Soviet news agency Tass reported from the Afghan capital that the three Pakistani hijackers had a brief meeting with the Libyan Ambassador in Afghanistan before the Boeing 720 took off.

It said they condemned the Pakistani Government for not meeting their demand for the release of 92 alleged political prisoners.

The official Afghan news agency Sakhtar said the aircraft was allowed to leave Kabul because the Pakistani Government's decision to break off negotiations with the hijackers had provoked a "dangerous situation".

Bakhtar said: "On the evening of March 8 Pakistan Government suddenly and

crudely broke off negotiations with the hijackers and ended all contacts with them. In the light of the Pakistani authorities' position, the hijackers demanded that the aircraft be refuelled and allowed to take off immediately."

Earlier today one of the members of the Pakistani negotiators had said that the crew were no longer capable of flying in acceptable safety conditions. Passengers and crew were on the verge of physical and psychological collapse, he said.

Reuter and Agence France Presse. Soviet riposte: Tass today described as absurd a statement by the United States Government that it held Moscow responsible for the safety of the hijacked passengers.

The State Department had said yesterday that the Soviet Union should use its influence in Kabul to obtain the safe release of the hostages, who include three Americans.—Reuter

Wave of arrests, page 6

Curtains for Sunday performance

By Our Theatre Reporter

Last night's performance of the West End variety show *That's Showbiz* was called off by Mr Stephen Kendall-Lane, the producer, who said most of the cast were frightened to go on stage.

An injunction was issued in the High Court on Thursday which had the effect of forbidding Equity, the actors' union, from interfering with last night's performance. The union had previously instructed members not to work on Sunday, but after the injunction it delivered letters to the cast on Friday saying that the injunction was "withdrawn until such time as the order of the court is revoked or modified".

Nevertheless, most of the cast of 31 were worried at the consequences of performing, fearing that they might lose their union cards eventually.

Mr Kendall-Lane said that about 100 tickets had been sold for the performance before they stopped taking bookings on Saturday night. More people were turned away at the doors.

At about the time the curtain should have gone up about 50 members of the public were admitted to the Phoenix Theatre where a lone pianist was playing. They found the cast sitting in the stalls.

As the bemused audience filed in, the pianist was interrupted by the arrival of Danny La Rue.

Although he knew the show had been cancelled, he had travelled from Bristol to support the cast because, he said, "I was bloody furious".

Mr Kendall-Lane said they would continue the fight. He apologized to the public and offered them either their money back or tickets for another night.

The band gave a brief rendering of the overture to the production, "A Live Show is the Best Show before an audience and cast headed dispiritedly into the night."

Japanese asked to help British Steel

Nippon Steel, the world's most efficient producer of steel, has been asked by Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, to provide advanced technology for the corporation in the reconstruction of some of its mills.

The spokesman for the Japanese company said the technology "will increase BSC's yield and decrease production costs". Page 17

Bani-Sadr 'treason'

Hojatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, the Iranian former religious judge, publicly demanded the trial of President Bani-Sadr for treason because of a violent political rally in Tehran on Thursday. He was speaking in Parliament during a national funeral over the violence in which even one of the President's clerical supporters accused him of megalomania. Page 6

Polish Jews blamed

A Warsaw rally was told that Jews were responsible for evils under Stalinism. It was timed to coincide with a university meeting commemorating 1968 demands for freedom and the subsequent riots, condemned at the time as "Zionist". Page 6

Car with two chassis unveiled by Lotus

Lotus unveiled a revolutionary twin-chassis Grand Prix T88 car in London before flying it out to California for track tests. The two chassis overcome vibrations that make cars impossible to drive on the limits. The T88 may line up alongside two conventional Lotus in the first race of the season in the United States next Sunday. Page 10

An Oxford golf first

Miss Jane Tucker, an economics undergraduate at Wadham College, Oxford, will be the first woman to represent the university at golf when she plays for the second team against Cambridge in the annual match on March 18. With Cambridge's consent she will play off the women's tees at Southport, and Ainsdale. Page 10

Art detective story

An art detective story will end next month with the sale at Christie's of a painting by Adam Elsheimer which is the last missing part of a seven-panel tapestry dated about 1600 and, until recently, believed lost. Page 15

Parties woo blacks

The Labour and the Conservative parties are trying to woo the black electorate. During the past 18 months they have been trying to persuade local parties to consider non-white candidates. Page 4

Hang-gliders used in attack on Israel

Two Palestinian guerrillas tried to attack Israel by flying over the frontier from Lebanon on sporting-type hang-gliders equipped with small motors. But only one managed to reach Israel and both were captured exhausted and asleep. Page 6

British tennis win

Britain beat Italy 3-2 in the Davis Cup at Brighton, thus qualifying for a place in the last eight against New Zealand. Britain led 2-1 at the start of yesterday's play, but Pat Cash beat Lewis to level the score. Mottram then won the deciding singles. Page 10

Defence pledge: Mr John Nott

promised a study later this year of "crucial questions". Page 2

Government alert: Councils failing to

achieve savings targets have received a warning that their freedom might be curtailed. Page 4

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Survey contradicts findings that children achieve better results in single-sex schools

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Evidence that pupils do better in single-sex than in mixed schools will have to be reviewed in the light of new findings.

A report to be published by the Government later this year, giving the results of the second national survey of the performance of pupils aged 15, says that although the overall findings confirmed earlier studies in suggesting that both boys and girls do better in single-sex schools, a different picture emerged when schools were divided into two groups, comprehensive and those with a selective intake.

Then it was found that in comprehensive schools there was no difference at all in the performance of pupils in single-sex and mixed schools; selective schools accounted for the entire difference in performance between single-sex and mixed schools.

The survey was carried out by the Assessment of Performance Unit (APU), which is part of the Department of Education and Science.

Without further investigation, it was impossible to judge whether the difference was related to the sex-type of the school or to some other factor such as a tendency for grammar schools to be single sex and secondary moderns mixed, the report says.

The APU's first national survey of the performance of pupils aged 15 in English language

(reading and writing), which is also to be published later this year, indicates as well that girls and boys do better in single-sex schools, except in Northern Ireland where no significant difference was found.

In Northern Ireland, only 44 per cent of pupils are in mixed schools compared with 79 per cent in England, and 93 per cent in Wales.

Unfortunately, the schools in the English-language survey were not divided into comprehensive and selective schools. But the report emphasises just because a school's sex-type is found to be associated with pupil performance, they are not necessarily causally related.

Overall, the surveys showed that in all types of school boys tended to do better than girls in mathematics, but much less well in writing (where tests included style and content as well as grammar and spelling) and about the same as girls in reading.

Differences found in pupils' performance in different regions produced an inconclusive pattern. For example, pupils' performance in England as a whole was better than in Northern Ireland, although Northern Ireland scored higher than England in the APU's earlier survey of 11-year-olds.

No significant difference was found in the scores for writing between the regions. But in the secondary school mathematics survey, England and Northern Ireland obtained the highest scores and Wales

the lowest, while in the APU's earlier mathematics survey of 11-year-olds, Wales had scored higher than England, and Northern Ireland highest of all.

Paradoxically, the results of the English language survey suggest that pupils do worse in schools with the more favourable teacher-pupil ratios. That may be explained by the fact that schools with favourable teacher-pupil ratios tend to be found in poorer areas.

Less than 1 per cent of the 10,000 15-year-old pupils involved in the English language survey were found to be illiterate when judged by the criteria of being "able to read with understanding, and to express themselves in writing in such a way as to be understood by others".

Four out of five pupils said they liked to read by themselves for pleasure, although only a quarter liked to read "for hours on end". Just over half preferred to read comics or magazines rather than books. One third enjoyed reading poetry.

On the writing tests, nearly half of the pupils produced work containing only very few grammatical errors, although more than a few spelling errors.

The APU has decided to extend its English-language monitoring programme which, like mathematics and science, will be carried out annually, to include listening and speaking skills.

Average pupils 'most neglected'

By Our Education Correspondent

The child of average ability is the most neglected pupil in the state education system, Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers, told a conference organized by the National Council for Educational Standards in London yesterday.

The comprehensive school had spent much time and attention on clever children and devoted resources to them because they produced good academic results. It had also provided "fairly lavish" resources for the child with acute learning difficulties, Mr Dawson, a former comprehensive school head, said.

But the average child was being neglected, he maintained. "He scores seven out of 10 for his homework, when he could score eight or nine if he pressed harder. In class, his work is adequate. He bothers no one, so his teachers do not bother him. Thus our greatest natural

resource, the average child, wastes away."

He blamed the failure of many comprehensive schools on the fact that, when they were established in the 1950s and early 1960s, the teachers were almost invariably recruited from grammar or independent schools.

If a comprehensive school was to be successful, it must have a balanced comprehensive intake. But Mr Dawson argued, that was impossible for many schools if parents were given the right to choose schools; and yet without parental choice, all schools were doomed to failure.

"The very success of some schools is made possible only by the failure of others," said Mr Dawson. He said that Mrs Caroline Cox, both members of the National Council for Educational Standards, gave further details arising from their study of sixth forms in inner-London comprehensive schools, which, he claimed, confirmed earlier conclusions that "a cruel confidence trick" was being

played on inner London pupils.

They said that their pamphlet published last month, giving details of A-level examination results in 1978 for 90 comprehensives in the inner London Education Authority, had been described by Mr Peter Newsam, the authority's chief education officer, as "an act of buffoonery" on the ground that they had not included LEA schools with a selective intake and above average A-level results.

But they had now obtained the A-level results for all schools in three LEA divisions, Islington, Hackney, and Tower Hamlets. Those corroborated their earlier findings, they said. The A-level pass rate in those divisions was only 55 per cent, and the average teaching group for eight main A-level subjects contained fewer than four pupils, they said.

The three divisions chosen by Mrs Cox and Mr Marks were exceptionally high proportions of poor and socially deprived families.



Fluttering and dancing in yesterday's stiff breezes: daffodils near Hyde Park Corner.

Mr Heseltine warns councils on savings

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Local authorities have received a warning that their freedom might be curtailed if they fail to achieve government savings targets.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, addressing the Conservative Party local government conference in London on Saturday, defended his actions in asking for reduced spending and in introducing the block grant system, and congratulated Conservative councils on their achievements.

Looking ahead to the county council elections on May 7, he said the Conservatives were the only ones capable of challenging the left.

Mr Heseltine said the Government was elected to reduce the local government budget, but could not be exempted. "I believe the targets we have set ourselves are reasonable in all the circumstances. There are no soft or cosy options."

Answering criticisms on the block grant, he said it would have been wrong to have delayed its introduction. Its benefits would be seen soon. A period of stability would enable councils to take advantage of the changes.

Local authorities had a good record of achieving targets

except in the last year, and they were not responsible for the setting of the spending targets. But when the Government had set them, councils must achieve them, and they were so in the voluntary climate that existed.

The system was worth preserving, but he had to persuade the bill payers that it was, and they were asking the Government to take more powers to control local expenditure.

Mr Heseltine urged councils to use outside accountants to help them to make savings. He pointed to the success of the government exercise in the water industry, where savings of £86m had been found in two weeks with the help of outside experts.

Mr Heseltine's emphasis on the need for the voluntary compliance by local authorities in making reductions was underlined by Mr Tom King, minister for local government, which clearly indicated the Government's concern that councils overall appear to be budgeting to overspend during the coming year.

The threat of further government action remained veiled, and Mr King would not be drawn on the question of whether outside accountants would be sent into authorities to find savings.

Delegates to the conference,

particularly from London, complained about the effect of the block grant and the inevitable high rate increases it would mean.

Mr Nicholas Freeman, leader of Kensington and Chelsea, said it had complied with every government guideline but because of the Inner London Education Authority precept and the loss of growth, its increase would be 3.5 per cent. Had anybody told Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who lives in the borough, what her rate increase would be, he asked.

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, told the conference he hoped that Sandwell councillors who dismissed Miss Joanna Harris for refusing to join a union would be surcharged if an industrial tribunal awarded her damages.

"No council ought to be allowed to get away with that sort of action," he said. Mr Prior added that until the passing of the Employment Act, Miss Harris would not have had any remedy over her dismissal, and that the Government would continue looking to see what other remedies were available.

His comments brought a strong reaction from Mr Frank Cooner, a member of Hereford and Worcester County Council, who said: "I am fed up with listening to your explanations."

Grasp the nettle and get us rid of this evil." But Mr Prior defended his step-by-step approach to the Act.

Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, gave an assurance of support for council tenants who were delayed in their attempts to buy their homes.

He said: "The Government is not prepared to see those who have a wholly valid and wholly legitimate legal right to buy their homes, conferred on them by Parliament, being subjected to unreasonable delay, needless frustration or outright political obstruction."

Tenants need to be in no doubt that the Government would take what steps were necessary to see that those who had exercised their legal right to buy their homes did become home owners.

The low-key conference was enlivened by a visit from Mrs Thatcher during the lunch break to give Conservative councillors encouragement for the forthcoming elections.

Lord Thorneycroft, party chairman, also added his support. He told the delegates: "Do not pretend that the fight ahead is an easy one, but I want you to win it." He admitted that after two years the Government was unpopular, but there would be no U-turn.

Churches urge fast over public spending

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

As if in defiance of the Prime Minister's warning to churches not to descend the political arena and sides, the Church of England, Methodist, and Roman Catholic departments concerned, are calling today for a "fast justice in public expenditure."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, speaking at St Lawrence Jewry in the City of London last evening, said that if the church took sides on practical issues, "this can only weaken the church's influence and independence, whose members ideally should help the state of all political parties."

Today the British Council Churches is putting on sale 5p, a prayer leaflet and "Lenten Fast for Justice Public Expenditure." A leaflet of prayer and fasting for Lent is being organized March 23 by the Board of Social Responsibility of the General Synod of the Church of England, the Division of Social Responsibility of the Methodist Conference, and the Social Commission of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

It was planned before Thatcher's address on Wednesday, but demonstrates the gulf between her own view of the churches' duty and their own.

The leaflet descends into political arena to the extent of discussing child benefit, all council housing, unemployment, and the level of overseas aid. Dr William Johnston, moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, last night described the Government's economic policy as "a humanitarian and a phony in the eyes of God."

In his sermon to the king service at St John's, Perth, Dr Johnston said: "Accelerating unemployment reaches its saddest and most evil when it affects you people."

"Is there any economic theory that can justify the degradation of human life in this dehumanizing of the individual, to say nothing of a time-bomb of resentment if we set ticking into the future?"

Airline offer £99 return fare to US

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Return air fares of £99 from Gatwick airport and Manchester to New York are to be offered on selected flights this summer by Jetset, a company specializing in transatlantic holidays.

The fare is the same price as the cheapest single standard fare British Airways, Transair, and Pan American Airways, and is below the cheapest fare on Laker Airways, which pioneered curative Atlantic travel.

Jetset said yesterday that passengers paying £99 return would be given free meals, wine and cocktails. There would also be in-flight films.

The low fare will be available only on six departures in May and June and October. Bookings, while full payment is required, should be made three-and-a-half weeks in advance of travel.

Jetset said that in the summer its normal "latesave" fare would rise to £179, but claim that that would still be a lowest return fare available compared with £190 on Laker and £256 on BA, Pan Am and TWA.

Mr Reginald Pycroft, managing director of Jetset, said: "We decided to launch the price-cutting fare at a time when the price of oil has come down, as well as up."

Boat pledge sought
Mr David Clark, an opposition spokesman on defence yesterday, demanded an assurance that the Government would countermand the "pragmatic" suggestion that five Royal Naval patrol boats might be built in Hongkong.

McAliskey poll entry hint

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Speculations are growing that Mrs Bernadette McAliskey, former MP for Mid Ulster, who was seriously wounded in a shooting in January, will contest the coming Fermanagh and South Tyrone by-election.

On Saturday she made her first public appearance since the attack, when she attended the funeral of Mr Frank Maguire, a close friend for many years, who had held the seat since 1974.

Mr McAliskey used crutches and her right leg was in plaster. She has called a press conference for today to announce her plans, which will almost certainly include returning to an active role in the National H-Block Committee, which is organizing the protest campaign in support of Mr Bobby Sands, the IRA man who has been on hunger strike for a week.

She would have an excellent chance of winning the marginal seat, partly because the Unionist vote will be split between the rival parties and because the shooting has created a great deal of public sympathy for her.

Protestant jail: Channing demonstrators picketed the maximum security Armagh jail in Northern Ireland yesterday demanding political status for 29 women prisoners (the Press Association reports).

Organizers said that 600 people from all over Europe attended the one-hour protest. The 29 women are refusing to carry out normal prison duties, but have interrupted a "dirty" protest in focus attention on Mr Sands' hunger strike.

He is backing the demand for political status for IRA prisoners.

Shelter launches homes drive in Ulster
By a Staff Reporter

Shelter, the national campaign for the homeless, is launching a campaign in support of its new offshoot in Northern Ireland.

An article in the charity's magazine Roof, published today, says that nearly a third of houses in the province need immediate repair or renewal. More than three times as many houses as in England lack basic amenities.

More than a quarter of the unfit dwellings are concentrated in Belfast, and there is a heavy backlog of urgent repairs to public authority housing.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive estimates that it should build 5,000 homes a year for the next 10 years.

1981 Royal Gold Medal won by British architect

By Charles McKean

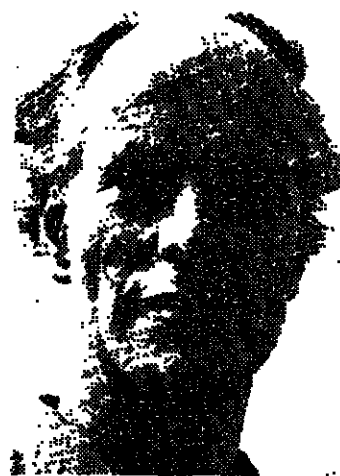
Sir Philip Dawson has won the 1981 Royal Gold Medal for architecture, an award which will be greeted with great pleasure internationally and by those interested in fine architecture.

The Royal Gold Medal is awarded annually on the recommendation of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Its recipients over the past century have included eminent figures (not necessarily architects) from all over the world.

Sir Philip is the senior partner of Arup Associates, the architects, engineers, and interior designers, which was spawned by Ove Arup and Partners, engineers. Sir Ove Arup is a previous recipient of the medal.

Arup Associates have designed a corpus of modern buildings whose collective quality is possibly unmatched by any other British firm. Notable achievements include new buildings to St John's College, Oxford, Leckhampton House in Cambridge, the restoration of the Maltings at Snape, University of East Anglia Music School, the new CEBG headquarters at Bedminster Down, Bristol, and Lloyd's Underwriters, at the Gunwharf, Chatham.

Sir Philip once admitted that he had been greatly influenced



Sir Philip Dawson: Austere intellectual approach.

by training in a carpenter's shop, with a resulting fascination in how things are put together, and in exposing all the joints. This background, coupled with an austere intellectual approach, explains much of his architecture.

It is not frivolous. Nor is it really fashionable. He is probably the modern British architect who most resembles Sir William Chambers, the eighteenth century British architect: no frills all brain.

Sale of BBC shows earns £2m

By a Staff Reporter

A four-day screening of BBC television programmes for overseas buyers has resulted in sales totalling £2m, according to provisional figures released today.

The session attracted 142 buyers from 51 broadcasting organizations in 22 countries; four networks presented 100 hours of the latest BBC programmes and 600 cassettes were available for individual screening.

Drama and documentaries were among the best-sellers to Europe, including *Caught on a Train*, the serials *Sons and Lovers*, *To Serve Them All My Days* and *Forgive Our Foolish Ways*; the escape series and the *Great Railway Journeys of the World*.

Mr Bryon Parkin, managing director of BBC Enterprises, said the figures were encouraging.

Oxford Union election

Miss Sandy Jones, aged 21, a languages and classics undergraduate at New College, Oxford, is to be president of the Oxford Union next term. She beat Paul Darling, of St Edmund Hall, by 12 votes.

Labour drive to woo black electorate as Tories claim some quiet success

by Lucy Hodges

The Labour and Conservative parties are setting out to woo the black electorate. In the past 18 months both have been making friends and trying to persuade local parties to consider black candidates.

Their tactics differ. Labour is publicly trying to respond to black needs by reshaping its policies and lobbying constituencies systematically. The Conservatives are quietly inviting Asians to parties and helping them with their individual difficulties.

The Labour Party will shortly be approaching all its regional organizers to persuade them to take action. There are signs that Labour is worried about its poor past performance in this area and about the headway the Conservatives have made.

A confidential survey carried out recently for Labour's human rights and race relations subcommittee showed that only a quarter of all constituency Labour parties that replied to a questionnaire took any action at election time to get in touch with ethnic minorities. The picture is a dismal one, the committee's report

said. There were 132 replies to the questionnaire out of 635 local parties, an average response. Only 8 per cent claimed to be doing anything special to recruit blacks.

The Conservatives have been more successful in welcoming blacks. Mrs Norma Green, deputy chairman of the Greater London Conservative Party, said great strides had been made in the past 18 months by some local parties. "You can go to a Conservative function and see quite a lot of racial mixing," she said. "There is an atmosphere of friendship."

Critics that approach say it is calculating and designed to appeal to the status-seekers in the ethnic minorities, rather than to present anything of substance to blacks.

The Conservatives have set up the Anglo-Asian Conservative Association and the Anglo-West Indian Conservative Association. Labour is not inclined to follow suit but it is determined to improve its image with blacks.

Foot backing: Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, yesterday endorsed a statement

approved by the Greater London Labour Party conference that described the fire at Deptford, south London, on January 18 in which 13 young blacks died as "mass murder" and "a dastardly crime" (the Press Association reports).

One of the main tasks of the next Labour government would be to do everything in its power to root out the real causes of racism, he said.

The fire led to black protests and clashes with the police on Monday last week. It has been alleged that the police have not properly investigated the cause of the fire because the victims were black.

The statement, made at the conference yesterday by Mr Arthur Latham, the chairman, expressed grief at the tragedy and said that the community had the right to be reassured that the maximum effort was being made to find those responsible.

"It needs to be made apparent that there is an investigation being conducted of a scale and intensity to match the seriousness with which the community rightly regards this dastardly crime."

Women oppose change in rape law

By a Staff Reporter

The Conservative Women's National Advisory Committee would oppose changes in the law to extend the offence of rape to include all cases where a husband has sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent.

It disagrees with the recommendation of the Criminal Law Revision Committee that the offence of rape should be extended to include "marital rape". It believes such a change would be impractical.

The committee has also come out against suggested changes in the law on incest. "The very strong moral, religious and genetic taboo on incest in society today could be destroyed by legalising the act for consenting adults," such as father and daughter or brother and sister, it says.

Modern art auction

An auction of contemporary art will be held at the Royal Academy this summer in aid of Artlaw Services, established in 1978 to provide legal advice to artists.

St John-Stevas attack on Arts Council cuts

By Our Theatre Reporter

Criticism of the Arts Council over its ending of grants to 41 organizations reached a new pitch yesterday with an attack by Mr Norman St John-Stevas, who was Minister for the Arts at the time of the cuts last December.

The council has received a welter of complaints about the cuts but many have been from companies which lost their grants. Mr St John-Stevas' condemnation may prove much more embarrassing.

In an article in *The Sunday Times*, he suggested that the council had appeared to act

like the Star Chamber court. He described the manner in which the cuts were made as ill-judged and incompatible with those civilized values which the council rightly claimed to represent.

Complaining of the lack of any coherent justification for the change in policy, he said it was wrong to cut grants to the National Youth Orchestra, the National Youth Brass Band, and the National Youth Theatre, criticized the treatment of the Old Vic Company and suggested the council ought to have given the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

School plan for jobless

A state allowance to keep all those aged between 16 and 19 in some form of educational training is to be recommended by the Central Policy Review Staff, the Government's "think tank".

It will suggest that the Government should consider removing the whole age group

from the labour market to leave more jobs for adults. Government plans are due to be announced next month to reform and expand the industrial training system.

The proposal of the policy review staff extends the plan the Secretary of State for Employment is already considering to offer all school leavers a year of training.

مركز الأصل

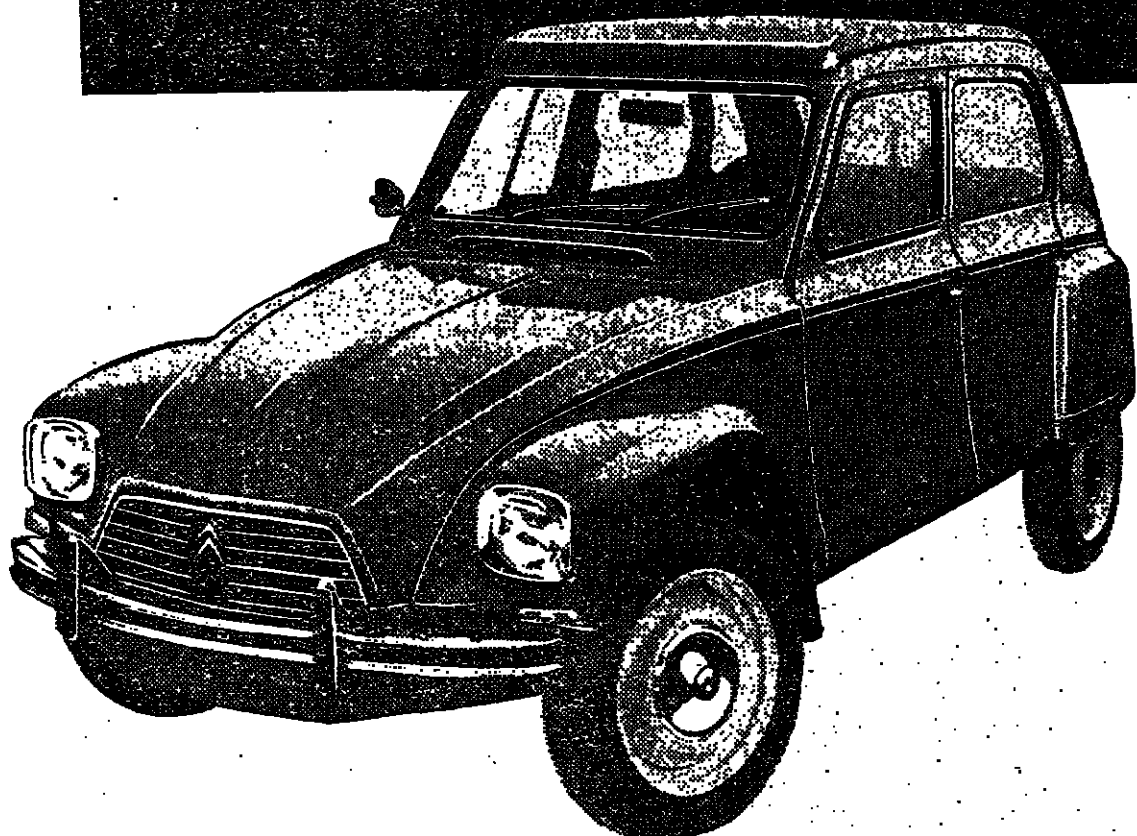
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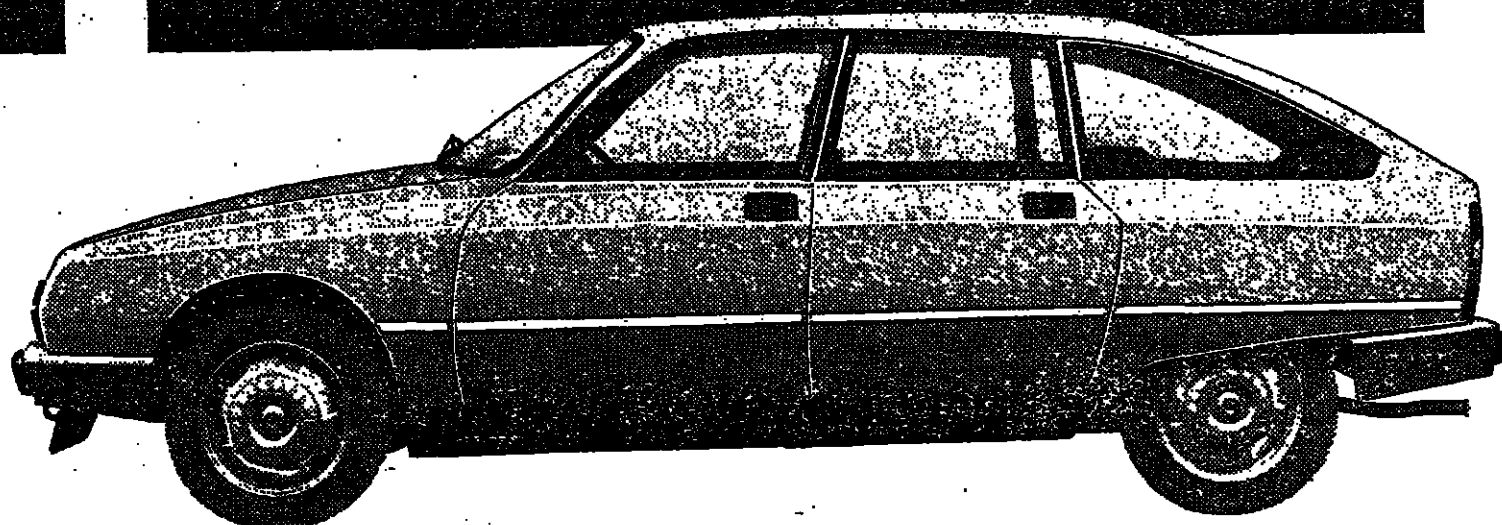
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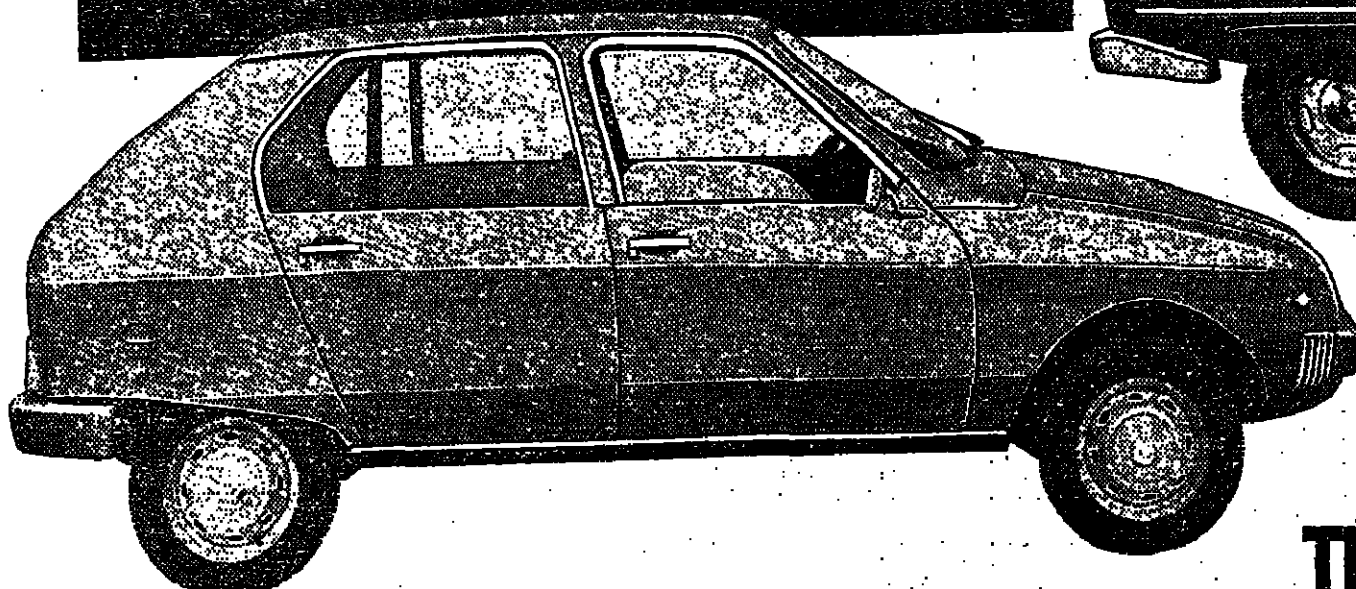
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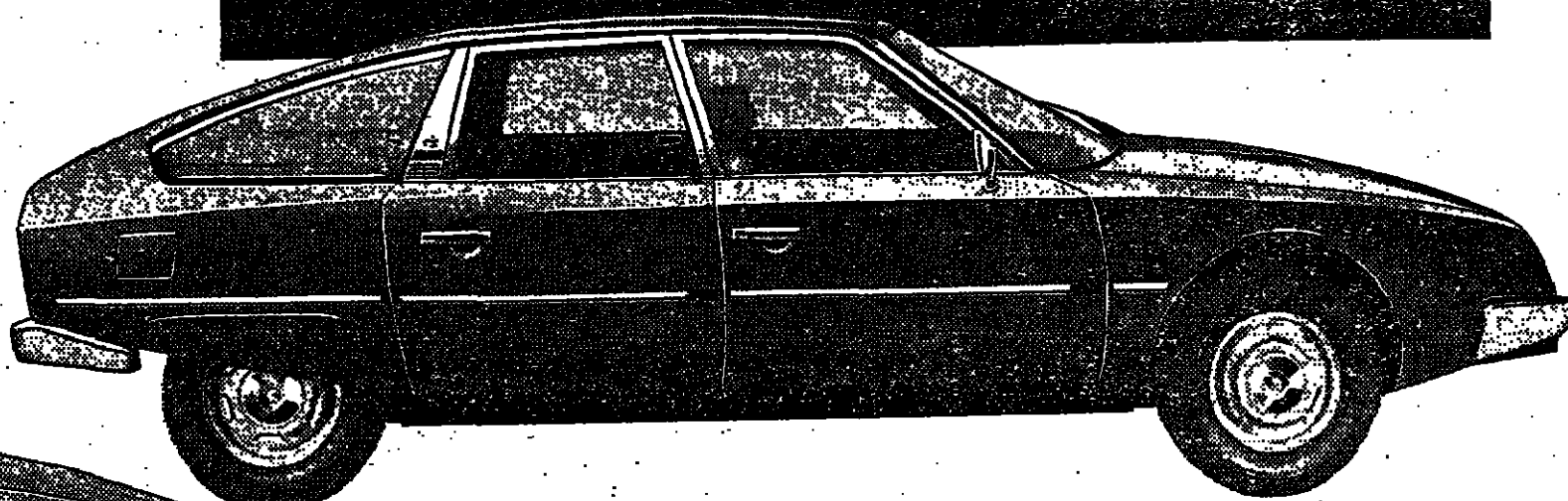
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Desperate Palestinian attempt to attack Israel by hang-glider

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, March 8

Palestinian guerrillas are resorting to increasingly unconventional methods of launching attacks inside Israel. Some of them have a Heath Robinson flavour despite the obvious deadly intent.

The new techniques are reminiscent of those resorted to by the Provisional IRA in the early 70s, when attempts were made to bomb targets from a helicopter carrying home-made bombs of high explosive stuffed into milk churns.

The most bizarre attack against Israel was foiled early yesterday after two Palestinians—one thought to be only 16 years old—attempted to cross the frontier from the hills of southern Lebanon using motorized hang-gliders equipped with explosives, guns and grenades.

The airborne mission ended in anti-climatic failure when the intrepid Arab aviators were separately discovered, exhausted and asleep. One was arrested by Israeli troops in western Galilee and the other inside south Lebanon by members of the militia headed by the renegade Major Saad Haadad.

Yesterday's attempted infiltration followed the raid last July when four Palestinians tried to cross the frontier in a hot air balloon. All four were killed after the balloon caught fire and crashed into the rugged south Lebanese countryside.

Israeli security chiefs believe that the experimental methods now being employed by the Palestinians are proof of the highly effective counter-measures in operation against possible attacks from Lebanon by land or air.

After the raid, the chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Rafael Eitan, warned Israel that more airborne infiltration attempts could be expected. But he played down the significance of the new flying machines, pointing out that they were carry only one man and were unreliable, especially at night.

Photographs of the captured hang-gliders showed that both were of the type which can be constructed from kits available on the open market. They were equipped with a small motor, which in theory should have enabled the guerrillas to return after completing their attack.

As it was, the hopelessly exhausted Palestinians both fell asleep in houses where they

had forced entry after landing under cover of darkness. The man detained in south Lebanon was under the mistaken impression that he had crossed the frontier into Israel. A spokesman for Major Haadad later said that the Palestinian had planted a series of mines which he had carried on his glider, along with an AK47 rifle and some grenades.

The Palestinian arrested inside Israel told the family in an Arab village, from which he sought food, that he was on a suicide mission "to take hostages or to kill Israelis".

Sportshop aircraft: The Palestinian "air force"—for that is what its propagandists have inevitably called it—consisted of just two hang-gliders, apparently bought through a sports wholesaler (Robert Fisk writes from Beirut).

The Iraqi-sponsored Arab Liberation Front (ALF), which has claimed responsibility for the raid, said the first glider, the one which actually crossed the Israeli frontier—weighed 170lb and carried a nine-horsepower engine with a speed of 37 miles an hour.

The second, which failed to reach Israel, was a larger machine with a 15-horsepower engine, a speed of 55 miles an hour and a weight of 190lb.

The ALF said that both gliders were loaded with an automatic rifle, a rocket-firing device, 210 grenades and a number of explosive charges. They gave the names of the two guerrillas as Jumaa Khalaf, aged 26, and Abdul Halim Hafez. It made no reference to a "Turk" being involved in the raid, but Mr Hafez's birthplace was given as Aleppo, the northern Syrian city which is only 35 miles from the Turkish frontier.

The hang-gliding mission was named after Ghasan Kafi, the Palestinian who died when the hot air balloon in which he was attempting to fly into Israel last summer crashed. Although the hang-gliding method of aerial attack is novel tactic for the Palestinians, there are in fact many Palestinians in the more orthodox Arab air forces. The pilot who died when his Syrian MIG 21 jet was shot down over the Bekaa valley in Lebanon last month by Israeli jet fighters turned out to be a Palestinian. His photograph, name and details of his birth have been printed on posters and plastered around the bazaar in Damascus.

Opposition politicians detained in Pakistan

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, March 8

A large number of arrests of opposition politicians, including Begum Nusrat Bhutto, widow of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the ex-captured Prime Minister, have been reported from different cities in Pakistan in the past 24 hours.

A senior government official today claimed that the arrests had no connexion with the hijacking nearly a week ago of a Pakistani airliner to Kabul where three hijackers are still holding 112 passengers and crew as hostages.

[Party sources said that Mr Bhutto's daughter, Miss Benazir Bhutto, had been arrested at the home of Begum Ashraf Abbasi, the former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, who was also detained. Reuter reports from Islamabad.]

Until late this evening there has been no official statement on the reported arrests; but political sources estimate that their number may be more than 50.

Among those arrested in Lahore were Mr Mazhar Ali Khan, editor of the English language weekly, *Viewpoint*, and his two editorial assistants, Dr Mubashar Hasan, Mr Bhutto's Finance Minister and a former secretary-general of the Pakistan People's Party, Mr Rao Rashid, a former Bhutto aide, and Mr Shoaib Hashmi, son-in-law of Mr Faiz Ahmad Faiz, a well-known Pakistani poet and Lenin peace prize winner.

Most of those arrested are described as leftists and belong to the Pakistan People's Party (which has been disbanded under martial law).

The arrests come after a number of other detentions since the beginning of the year.

Mrs Bhutto, as president of the People's Party founded by her husband, last month formed with eight other parties an alliance called Movement for Restoration of Democracy which demanded an end to martial law and general elections in three months.

Ironically, General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler, is forming a new Cabinet tomorrow from supporters of the restoration of democracy. General Zia considers the reconstruction of his Cabinet as a step towards associating men of integrity and Islamic thinking with his Government.



President Bani-Sadr wearing a garland of flowers presented to him by his followers after the rally in Tehran on Thursday.

Khalkhali call to try President for treason

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, March 8

Iran's notorious former religious judge, Hojatoleslam Sadeq Khalkhali, today publicly demanded the trial of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr for treason following a violent political rally in Tehran on Thursday.

Amid a national furor over the violence, mainly directed against the President, even one of Mr Bani-Sadr's own clerical supporters accused him of "Megalomania".

Speaking in Parliament this morning, Hojatoleslam Khalkhali declared: "There is no doubt in my mind that the President himself has committed treason against the constitution and therefore he must be put on trial."

At one point in his speech the hojatoleslam, who resigned as a religious judge after allegations of ordering indiscriminate executions and torture, tore up a copy of the newspaper *Islamic Revolution*, which supports the President.

The copy in question had printed pictures of identity cards taken from Muslim fundamentalists arrested last Tuesday, often after a severe beating from supporters of the President, showing their mem-

bership of the revolutionary guards, security *Komites* and other organizations controlled by the country's hardline muslim factions.

Many of the cards were shown by the President to the huge crowd that had come to hear him speak at a rally to honour the memory of the late nationalist Prime Minister, Muhammad Mossadeq. Violence broke out after the President lost patience with the failure of the police to eject a crowd of disrupters and asked the public to arrest the troublemakers.

Hojatoleslam Khalkhali said today that by this act the President had shown himself to be guilty of "despotism... giving the order, being the judge, witness and so on."

Although the feeling has never been reciprocated, the hojatoleslam is in the past been considered a supporter of the President, especially over the issue of the former American hostages.

Another recognized ally of the President, Hojatoleslam Muhammad Bani Kermani, accused the President today of indulging in a "childish game" that only served to weaken his own position. "Unfortunately you have become a megalomaniac and if you are not able to overcome this disease then

you and your country will be destroyed."

The last two days have been dominated by a cascade of statements over the issue, mostly against the President. Demonstrations have been reported in many places, including Qom, where newspapers reported a tense atmosphere following failed attempts by fundamentalists to force the bazaar to close.

The Interior Ministry issued an order declaring further demonstrations illegal. "Anyone engaged in such will be considered an enemy of Islam and the Islamic nation," it said.

The President himself has returned to the southern war zone to supervise the war effort. The country's religious leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, has refused any further meetings for a week.

Although no great lover of the President or the growing coalition of radical and nationalist groups that are surrounding him, the ayatollah has refused to join in the condemnation of the country's highest elected official.

Speaker's claim: The Speaker of the Iranian Parliament alleged today that supporters of the radical Mujahideen organi-

zation had occupied the governor's office in Lahijan, on the Caspian coast, and declared the city independent (Reuter reports from Tehran).

Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, a founder member of the fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party, told Parliament: "Dirty groups that are fed from the Soviet Union have declared their independence, occupied the Governor's office and closed the schools of the city."

Iraqi attack: Iraqi ground and air forces went into action for the second day against Iranian targets after Iran's rejection of peace proposals by Islamic nations (AP reports from Nicosia).

An Iraqi war communiqué broadcast by Baghdad radio indicated that fierce fighting was continuing along the battle fronts.

New peace move: A leading Palestinian representative will visit Tehran and Baghdad in the next few days for follow-up talks on Islamic attempts to end the war, according to Palestinian sources today (Reuter reports from Beirut).

His visits would precede a new series of visits to Iran and Iraq by an Islamic mediation committee.

In brief

American shot dead in Bogota

Bogotá, March 8.—Colombian Trotskyist guerrillas have shot dead Mr Chester Allen Bitman, an American, aged 30, who worked for the Summer Institute of Linguistics, a religious organization. His body was found in hijacked bus wrapped in flag of the M19 (Movimiento April 19) guerrilla group, was kidnapped here on January 19 by hooded gunmen, who demanded the closure of a institute.

Britons killed

Cavallion, southern France, March 8.—A British couple, holiday and a Frenchman were killed when two cars crash near here yesterday, police said. The Britons were named as Michael Frostick, aged 33, and his wife Denise, of Havendon Close, Chichester, Sussex.

41 held in Jerusalem

Jerusalem, March 8.—An one of the worst clashes between ultra-orthodox Jews and Israeli police, a total of 41 of Jerusalem's religious zealots are under arrest, including Rabbi Uri Blau, spiritual leader of the extreme Neturai Kar sect.

Conductor dies

Amsterdam, March 8.—Kj Kondrasin, Soviet-born conductor of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw orchestra, died last night after a heart attack at the age of 67, an official the orchestra said.

Arab bank to reopen

Tel Aviv, March 8.—The military Government in Gaza today withdrew its objections to reopening the Palestine Bank under its original name. The Arab-owned bank ceased trading after the Six-Day War in 1967 when its assets were frozen.

Women arrested

Moscow, March 8.—Police arrested 11 women Pentecost lists, members of a Protestant religious sect, as they demonstrated outside the Lenin Library in central Moscow today. International Women's Day for the right to emigrate to the West.

Argentines released

Buenos Aires, March 8.—Six Argentine human rights campaigners arrested last week on charges of violating national security laws have been freed by a federal judge.

Match goes on with no sign of kidnap player

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, March 8

One of Spain's most popular football players was still missing as his team took the field for a crucial game here today, in spite of the fact that officials of the Barcelona football club, for which he plays, were reported to have paid his kidnappers 100m pesetas (£529,000).

Barcelona's leading goal scorer, Enrique Castro, aged 31, known as "Quini" vanished a week ago in Barcelona after a match. Officials of the football club admitted later that they had received a recording of his voice and said arrangements had been made to pay the ransom.

Hopes that he might be released in time to play in today's match between Atletico de Madrid and Barcelona were dashed when the Barcelona team took the field.

Prisoners of conscience



Korea: Kim Tong Son

By Caroline Moorehead

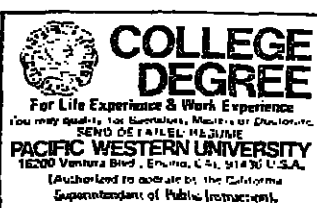
After the assassination of President Park Chung Hee in the autumn of 1979 tight restrictions were imposed on newspapers and broadcasting.

The severest, Martial Law Regulation No 10, involved the submission of all news reports to the military censors.

The Journalists' Association of Korea protested to the military authorities that this form of censorship was being used to manipulate public opinion. They threatened to stop submitting articles for inspection and full martial law was declared.

Kim Tong Son, aged 37, editor of the journal of the Journalists' Association, was arrested and charged with "unauthorised publishing of printed material".

At a court martial on August 2, 1980, he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. A fellow member of the Journalists' Association was given a one-year sentence.



Jews blamed for Poland's ills at Warsaw rally

Warsaw, March 8.—Between 1,000 and 1,500 people gathered here today in a nationalist, antisemitic demonstration to coincide with the anniversary of the student riots of March, 1968.

In another demonstration, a similar number of students and teachers met at Warsaw University to commemorate the riots and the students' demands in 1963 for more democracy and a freer press. At the time the Polish press blamed the riots on "Zionists".

A previously unknown group, the Grunwald Patriotic Union—named after the Polish victory in 1410 at Grunwald (Tannenberg)—over the Teutonic Knights, organized the nationalist demonstration. Although officially in memory of the victims of Stalinism, it was manifestly directly against today's student demonstration.

Informed sources said the new organization includes members of the Warsaw group of communist intellectuals, Warszawa 80; militants of a veterans' association; former members of the wartime non-communist Home Army; and Roman Catholics linked with the Government.

Speakers, who included Mr Bogdan Poreba, a film director, argued that the main hangmen during the Stalinist period in Poland were Jews and that this justified the 1968 "anti-Zionist" campaign during which thousands of Polish Jews were forced to emigrate.

To loud applause, speakers declared that the Solidarity free

trade union movement must be Polish only and suggested that the dissident group KOR was Zionist and anti-Polish.

Mr Jacek Kuron, the KOR leader, who was detained by police last week and warned that he faced possible charges of slandering the nation, addressed the rally in a packed auditorium at Warsaw University.

He said there had been many Jews in the party apparatus in the early years after the war but the notion of equating Jews with the Soviet terror was just an excuse for scribbling disasters to alien forces.

He said the main difference between all previous popular protests in Poland and last summer's labour revolt was that the events of 1980 created grassroots demands.

But he warned his audience that a threat of Soviet military intervention still hung over Poland and he advised moderation.

Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity union announced today that he is resigning as General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, tomorrow. He issued a seven-point list of issues they would discuss.

Moscow warning: In a clear warning to Poland's independence, the Soviet party newspaper, *Pravda*, today quoted Lenin as saying that trade unions should accept the supremacy of the Communist Party.—Agence France-Press, Reuter and UPI.

Leading article, page 13

Russian diplomat expelled from Spain for spying

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, March 8

A Soviet diplomat made a hasty departure for Moscow this weekend after the Spanish Government denounced him as a spy and gave him 24 hours to get out of the country.

Mr Vladimir Illich Efremov, a vice-consul at the embassy in Madrid, was the seventh diplomat or Soviet government employee to be expelled from Spain for espionage activities since diplomatic relations between Madrid and Moscow were resumed in February, 1977.

His departure was preceded a few days by that of another Soviet spy who left hurriedly, but voluntarily, when his cover was blown, informed sources said. He was Mr Yuri Goloviatenko, a correspondent for the Soviet news agency NTA.

The expulsion of Mr Efremov was decided here last Friday at the first Cabinet meeting of the new Government headed by Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo.

Diplomatic sources indicated that he tried to buy military secrets from a Spanish double agent. He had contact with an extremist organization, the Movement for the Autonomy and Independence of the Canary Islands, and he gathered confidential information on Spanish politicians and political parties.

Informed sources said the level and scope of his activities suggest that he is a high-level agent of the KGB, possibly the most important Soviet spy yet discovered in Spain. His clandestine work has been under surveillance for some time past and there is photographic evidence of him receiving sensitive information.

The decision to expel him was apparently made at this time because a Spanish double agent who dealt with him was at the point of being discovered by the Soviet intelligence services.

The monarchist daily ABC said here today that there may be new developments in the near future with regard to "the complex of Soviet firms in Spain."

Back on duty: About 80 of the estimated 200 civil guards who held Spain's parliament at gunpoint as part of an attempted coup last month returned to their homes and regular duties this weekend, according to a Spanish news agency and the Madrid daily *El Pais*.

This appears to reflect one of the conditions which the authorities were reported to have agreed with Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero, who led the takeover of Parliament, when he surrendered—that the civil guards and NCOs would not be prosecuted.

Former Premier of Dominica on coup plot charge

From Peter Hazelhurst
Bridgetown, March 8

Miss Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica, announced yesterday she had ordered the arrests of Patrick John, the former Premier, and Major Frederick Newton, the Defence Force Commander, for plotting a coup.

Others arrested included Mr Donald Joseph, former Director of Broadcasting and Information, and Corporal Howell Piper, the Prime Minister said in a broadcast monitored in Barbados.

Miss Charles said they would all be tried for planning a coup that she said was to have taken place on March 14. "I would hope that death would be the penalty; but I can't say that for sure," she added.

She declared a state of emergency on February 13 after a band of Rastafarians kidnapped Mr Edward Honeychurch, a farmer whose son, Lennox, is the chief government spokesman.

He is still being held by members of the religious cult.—AP.

Japanese to breed wild animals for the hunters

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, March 8

A club of more than 400,000 Japanese hunters plans to breed wild animals and birds in large numbers at special farms for the purpose of hunting, because the country's game population has been seriously depleted in recent years.

The Dainippon Hunting Association, one of the biggest clubs of its kind in Japan, has announced it will open its first experimental breeding farm on five hectares of land near Tokyo.

Club officials say they decided to breed wild game because the number of birds shot by the association's 400,000 members dropped by 1,576,000 to 7,426,000 in 1978.

In the same year the number of bears, weasels and other wild animals killed by hunters fell by 156,000 to 79,000.

The association hopes to start with artificial breeding of 10,000 pheasants, 100 weasels and other small animals. The experimental station will also

import 100 Hungarian partridges from the United States.

"We plan to breed them until the population swells. The birds and animals will be released in reserved hunting grounds in Yamanashi prefecture," an official said.

But the champions of wildlife protection are up in arms. "Hunters are going too far when they begin to breed animals with the purpose of shooting them down later for amusement," Mr. Iwasawa, Kimura, a supporter of Japan Animal Welfare Society says.

The issue of wildlife conservation has become such a sensitive subject recently that the entire Cabinet decided to turn down an invitation to participate in the Imperial Hunt, a traditional annual duck-hunt this year.

A recent public outcry also forced the Government to drop a plan to destroy thousands of protected pigeons, which have settled in the eaves and rafters of the famous Seisyo temple in Asakusa, in Tokyo.

Zimbabwe gives warning to whites after brawl

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, March 8

The Zimbabwe Government yesterday issued a warning to whites who, it said had failed to adjust to the new circumstances in the country. This came after an incident in which a multiracial group of delegates to an education conference were harassed and chased from a Salisbury nightclub.

The group attempted to leave "Samantha's", a popular nightclub, after they were jostled and threatened by a gang of whites believed to be soldiers and airmen. Two delegates, an Australian and a Botswana, were beaten up outside and stones were hurled at the others as they fled.

Dr Nathan Shamuyarira, Minister of Information and Tourism, yesterday deplored the harassment of "distinguished guests". He said: "The Government will soon take stern measures to stamp out organized groups of white thugs and hoodlums who are responsible for numerous assaults and unruly behaviour at hotels, nightclubs and restaurants in Salisbury and Bulawayo."

"Whites who think they are still living in Rhodesia will soon find their way into Zimbabwe's jails."

Butter deal is held up by Italian objection

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, March 8

New arrangements for the export of New Zealand butter to Britain, as well as other agricultural measures agreed in principle by the EEC last month, still have not been put into effect because of continuing Italian opposition.

Italy's difficulty concerns the size of the sugar production quota it has been allowed under the new EEC sugar regime, which also forms part of the package of measures. Everything else in the package has been agreed by the Italians.

El Salvador killings described

Continued from page 1

and most have dysentery. Some are naked and all are filthy from the foul smelling dust everywhere. Thin dogs scurry in packs and poultry peck for food. A girl aged 13 breast-fed her 40-day-old baby.

Women have stories of how their husbands were shot by death squads or the Army.

"Ten days ago the Army came and took us from our houses," a thin young woman in a black dress said. (Nobody on either side will give his or her name through fear of reprisal.) "They took my husband and shot him in front of me and the children. They thought he was helping the guerrillas."

Other tales are worse. "They killed my daughter," said a woman in a flower print dress and a pink mop cap. "She was down grinding corn for sor-



ghillas. They just killed her for fun."

The camp is run by the Green Cross, a local charitable organization. The secretary arrived on a white horse carrying a broad white flag with a green cross on it. "For security," he explained.

He said that the camp was desperately short of medicine to treat the sick children. They

needed doctors; medical treatment is given by students. They needed tents to shelter the refugees when the rains come in May.

Next morning, on a return visit, we arrived at about the same time as the Salvadorean Air Force. Three fighter jets circled the hills round the camp, dropping bombs and strafing the undergrowth about three miles away.

The difficulty the Army face is that even when they do clear guerrillas from a town, they have to garrison it or the guerrillas return.

Shortage of manpower does not allow every town to be defended. So the war ebbs and flows, with neither side able to take a decisive advantage.

Eric Heffer, and Diary, page 12

OVERSEAS

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Brezhnev letter to Herr Schmidt viewed as attempt to sway Americans during Genscher visit

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, March 8

A letter from President Brezhnev to Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, has arrived in Bonn just before the start of important consultations between the United States and its key European ally.

The Germans have declined to disclose its contents but it is believed to be about Mr. Brezhnev's declarations at the Soviet Party Congress and the talks involving Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, which begin in Washington tomorrow.

It seems that the Soviet leader hoped to use the West Germans' much greater sensitivity towards the Soviet Union as a lever with President Reagan's Administration.

East-West relations and arms controls, which took an important place in Mr. Brezhnev's recent speech, will be central issues in Mr. Genscher's discussions with President Reagan, Mr. Alexander Haig the Secretary of State, and other American leaders.

The Germans know their views go against the much tougher, more self-assertive public mood in America at present and that they diverge from what little is so far known of the Administration's own position.

Over the next two months the Germans will be trying hard to influence and moderate the new American foreign policy while it is still being shaped on these and other matters.

With West Germany's exposed position on the East-West border, its heavy investment in defence, its strategic dependence on the United States and its increasing role in the world, much is at stake. Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, is already in Washington, Herr Hans Apel, the Defence Minister, goes later this month. Herr Schmidt pays a visit in May.

Herr Genscher will press hard for restoration of the military balance in Europe, at present tipped strongly in favour of the Soviet Union by its new SS20 missiles. But he will give a strong warning against any attempt by the United States to aim for superiority, firmly believing that any imbalance creates insecurity.



Herr Genscher: Seeks return of the military balance.

The Germans have firmly rejected Mr. Brezhnev's proposal of a freeze on medium range nuclear weapons. Euro-missiles—because it would perpetuate the East's huge advantage. But he will press for further talks on a balanced reduction of these weapons.

The impression here is that the United States is scarcely interested in negotiations until it has actually caught up with the Soviet Union. But for the Germans, whose towns and cities are threatened, it is vital that these numbers be reduced to the lowest possible level.

Herr Genscher is acting under strong domestic pressure, particularly from within Herr Schmidt's Social Democratic Party (SDP) many of whom would no longer support the deployment of new Nato Euro-missiles unless accompanied by negotiations.

The Minister can expect hard questioning about this increasing resistance to the government's defence policy and the vague mood of pacifism among the German left.

Officials say he will point to last October's election results and a recent opinion poll which showed that the SDP are firmly behind the government. The protests, although vocal, come only from a small minority.

Nevertheless senior Foreign Ministry officials are so concerned about the pacifism that they feel compelled to go about the country like

politicians convincing people how vital the policy is for West Germany's security.

Herr Genscher (and this is where Mr. Brezhnev's letter probably comes in) is expected to ask President Reagan to take up the Soviet leader's offer of a summit meeting.

While the Americans do appear inclined to teach the Soviets a lesson after Afghanistan, the Germans are anxious to get East-West relations back to normal. Although the word détente is no longer heard so frequently here, the security of Berlin, links with East Germany, East-West cooperation and the defusing of tensions are extremely important to Bonn.

Herr Genscher is braced for possible demands by the United States that West Germany should take part in an intervention force. Mrs Margaret Thatcher's declarations of willingness were greeted with wry grins and the comment "It is all right for her to say things like that."

For the Germans it would create very difficult political problems. They can do a lot, they feel, to support efforts in central Europe should the United States have to intervene in a crisis.

Huge sales of arms to Saudi Arabia, which the Government felt could be an important contribution, are in doubt because of opposition within the SDP. But West Germany will continue to provide substantial aid, trade and diplomatic support to endangered countries in the "area of crisis" around Afghanistan, Turkey, Pakistan and the Gulf states.

Herr Genscher goes to Washington with some optimism. The German leaders believe the unpredictability and "amateurishness" of the Carter years are over and are delighted that President Reagan is consulting his allies and not rushing into policy decisions.

They are also pleased at the appointment of Mr. Haig who, unlike many Washington politicians, understands the problems and complexities of Europe. But they have no illusions that there are fundamental differences between Washington and Bonn.



M. Mitterrand leaving East Germany on Thursday after visiting the former Nazi labour camp from which he escaped

M Mitterrand derides the 'outgoing' President

From Charles Hargrove
Besenais, March 8

Mr. Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate, plunged this weekend into the presidential election campaign with undiminished vim and vigour, astonishing in a man of 64 with three unsuccessful attempts to win the presidency behind him.

He opened his offensive against President Giscard d'Estaing in Besenais, north of Paris, one of the many larger towns which the Left wrested from the majority in the 1977 municipal elections. At a public meeting, the first of 24, he will hold throughout the country between now and polling day, he pulled no punches.

He spoke for one and a half hours before an audience of 3,000 or so, most of them Socialist sympathisers, gathered in a big tent in the town centre. Frequently he was interrupted by rhythmic shouts of "Mitterrand—President". Giving a dazzling display of all the resources of his oratory, grave, ironic, poetic, even playful, candid and confidential, he switched from indignation to pathos—with occasional lapses into barbs. And he concentrated all his attacks on what he called "the outgoing candidate".

Sublimely he ignored M

Georges Marchais and the Communists, except indirectly when he pointed out that he was "a free man, and no one has any ties on me". No force in the world, he declared, apart from his convictions and his love for his country, would weigh on his decisions when he had the responsibility of running France.

On May 10, the choice would be between the candidate of the Right, and the Socialist candidate, he emphasized: between a "broken line" and the Socialist Party line. "We are, and we shall be more and more in coming weeks, the left."

He took M Giscard d'Estaing to task for insisting, as he did in his television broadcast a week ago, that a victory of the Left would spell disorder for the country. "But we have disorder now, with 1,700,000 unemployed," he exclaimed. "For the outgoing candidate, disorder begins when he runs the risk of losing his job. Technocrats often speak of the need for mobility of labour. That is all I wish for him." He added to gales of laughter.

He had also heard the "outgoing candidate" say he wished to bring all Frenchmen together and unite the country—"but he doesn't do so by dividing them in two, with good on one side and the bad on the other." As Napoleon III had once said,



French Presidential Election

let the bad tremble, and the good be reassured.

Before announcing his candidature, he should have submitted his record—and then he should have withdrawn from the stage on tiptoe, hoping he might be forgotten," the Socialist leader added. "Unfortunately if he is re-elected, it will spell three million unemployed for France. Speeches can create an illusion, but the reality is there. Frenchmen will refuse to perpetuate seven years of misery."

Mitterrand also singled out for a display of righteous indignation the "President-candidate's" onslaught against political parties in his article a week ago in *Le Figaro* magazine. "Rarely has an elected head of state," he declared, "indulged in such an aggression against one of the country's institutions, solemnly recognized

by the Constitution of 1958.

"I am proud to have been chosen by the Socialist Party to be their candidate," he continued, "and the role of the Socialist candidate is to speak for the masses of this country; and when elected, to speak for all Frenchmen and women." M Giscard d'Estaing had founded his own party, but he had lost it. And now he was going about looking for it with a lantern, like Marshal de Soubise looking for his army.

The Giscardian UDF party felt rather orphaned these days. M Mitterrand went on. It was trying in another place (it had a congress in Paris on Saturday) to work out how it could support its candidate, without, in deference to his express wish, appearing to act as his party.

Unemployment will clearly be the central theme of this election campaign. A week after M Giscard d'Estaing had done the same, M Mitterrand gave it much play in his speech. He outlined once again his six-point plan to increase the number of jobs, including reduction of the economy, reduction in working hours, recruiting 200,000 extra civil servants, and, more surprisingly, encouraging medium and small enterprises. Initiative must be rewarded, he emphasized, and those who created jobs must enjoy the fruits of their efforts.

Deputy chief of Malta opposition to be charged

From Our Correspondent
Valletta, March 8

Dr Guido de Marco, the deputy leader of Malta's opposition Nationalist Party, is to be charged with making false public accusations against Mr Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister, and leading police officers.

The action follows a speech he made last Sunday in which he referred to a case against some journalists charged in connexion with the throwing of a bomb at a group of industrialists.

The editor and a reporter of the independent *Times of Malta* and the editor and a reporter of the *Nationalist Party* newspaper, *In Nazzjon Tagħna*, have been accused of spreading false information and hindering police investigations.

Dr de Marco is to be charged before Dr Anton Depasquale, a magistrate, tomorrow with having in public falsely accused Mr Mintoff (as Minister for the Police); Dr Lawrence Pullicino, Police Commissioner; and Inspectors Gaetano Pace and Angelo Farrugia of "bad acts in administration of Government."

The charge alleges that his words had wrongly suggested that the arrest of the journalists was a threat against the freedom of the press and that he wrongly maintained that democracy and freedom was also threatened.

The Government Department of Information said that steps were being taken against the *Times of Malta* and *In Nazzjon Tagħna* for publishing the de Marco speech. Last Sunday Dr de Marco, after referring to the bomb incident and its coverage in newspapers, said the police had taken the editor and reporter of *In Nazzjon Tagħna* to police headquarters in the middle of the night. He added he could not understand why it had to be done at night.

Police later arrested the editor and a reporter of the *Times of Malta*, he said, not because they had thrown the bomb, but because they had published what reliable sources had seen and reported on them.

He emphasized that the free press would not be intimidated or destroyed by such police actions as arresting men in the middle of the night when they could be detained by day.

This morning the *Nationalist* weekly, *Il-Mument*, carried a statement by the Nationalist parliamentary group under a headline "Solidarity With de Marco".

The statement said the group was meeting today to study the implications of the steps taken by police against Dr de Marco.

"Measures such as these will not prevent the Nationalist parliamentary group from further expressing itself on anything it considers is carried out abusively and that must be explained to the public," it said. "Nothing can succeed inousting Nationalist Members of Parliament."

Athenians still fleeing from earth tremors

Athens, March 8.—Athenians refused to accept assurances from seismologists that the most of the earthquakes was over. Instead, they flocked to the countryside by the thousands.

More than 100 tremors shook the city during the weekend, many of them registering up to 5.5 on the Richter Scale. The strongest struck at 1.35 pm yesterday and was followed, minutes later, by a 5.2 strength tremor.

More than 100,000 vehicles have left Athens since yesterday morning. Although many families had planned to leave the capital to enjoy the Mardi Gras carnival weekend in the country, thousands of others fled in a panic.

All the tremors were centred in the Gulf of Corinth, 40 miles west of Athens where the first strong earthquake registering 6.5 on the Richter Scale, hit the area on February 24, killing 18 people and causing serious damage.

The Seismological Institute said the tremors showed a decline in number and intensity and that aftershocks will continue for several weeks, but are unlikely to cause serious damage to houses and offices.

—UPI.

Corsican attacks

Montpellier, France, March 8.

Corsican nationalists claimed responsibility for six bomb explosions last night that slightly injured six people and caused extensive damage to banks and an information centre here last night.

Admiral says navy will assist Nato by ensuring Mediterranean stays a zone of stability

Italy shoulders peacekeeping task

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 8

Admiral Giovanni Torrisi, chief of the defence staff, rules out any possibility of Italy using a rapid deployment force of the kind Mrs Thatcher talked about with President Reagan for policing the Gulf. Instead he sees a more subtle role for Italy which will give the Navy plenty to do in the Mediterranean.

"We are not just discovering the Mediterranean," he says to a new approach to the area. Italian interest in the Mediterranean has been growing for some months as a matter of policy.

Last autumn's agreement guaranteeing Malta's security is normally taken to be one of the most convincing proofs of Italian intentions. So are Italian efforts in foreign policy to remain on the best possible terms with countries which supply a large part of Italy's energy requirements.

About 60 per cent of fuel imports come from the Mediterranean and 85 per cent of Italy's imports of oil.

Admiral Torrisi accepts the importance of the Mediterranean to Italy as a fact of life and also sees it as a possible zone of conflict because of the divisions among the 300 million people who live around its shores.

Some, he says, belong to Nato, others are close to the Warsaw Pact while others are former

colonies with a strongly nationalistic spirit and sudden wealth.

But he does not see current international tensions taking the form of a head-on confrontation between the Nato alliance and Russia.

"Nato can concern itself with events elsewhere, such as the problem of the Gulf and the invasion of Afghanistan because the policy of the two super-powers seems now to be that of seeking weak points where they can make themselves felt."

"It is in this context, where a conflict need not necessarily be of catastrophic proportions but remain localized, that the Mediterranean could easily be the scene of an outbreak because of its instability. Italian interests are to keep the situation as stable as possible."

As part of Italy's obligations to Nato he sees one of Italy's tasks as trying to make up for the absence of about a third of the American sixth fleet.

There was no truth in press reports that Naples was being considered as the logistical base for the projected rapid deployment force. "Nothing so far has changed at all in the normal routine that we have followed for years... the Americans have not asked, not even bilaterally, for a reinforcement of existing logistical support, and I do not see change."

"They already have more or less the support they need and it would be difficult to have more."

Italian capability would not

be sufficient to fake the navy outside the Mediterranean area.

"When they ask us why we do not want to participate in the Gulf project, it is because the few ships we have use more in the Mediterranean so that we have as strong a presence as possible within the framework of the alliance."

After from obligations arising from the alliance, a specific policy was necessary to attempt to keep the Mediterranean stable.

"Many countries see in Italy a country with an advanced technology, a country which is not like a superpower which, when it arrives, behaves as a bull in a china shop, but a country with no intention to dominate," the admiral says.

"It is simply this concept of penetration, to bring a certain type of culture, its technology, the capacity of its people to a world which certainly needs these things—and above all I mean countries on the shores of the Mediterranean."

The military version of this policy is to cultivate relations by visits and offers of facilities for training. About 30 per cent of the pupils at the Livorno Military Academy are foreigners, many from Mediterranean countries.

The admiral feels, and he has discussed it with the Americans, that activities aimed at stabilizing a particular and potentially dangerous zone fit into the aims of the alliance.

Foreign Minister defends French role in Africa

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 8

There was a sort of end of term atmosphere about the luncheon the French diplomatic press gave on Friday for M Jean Francois-Poncet, the Foreign Minister.

He is approaching the end of his time at the Quai d'Orsay and was taking stock of his performance during his two years there, with the satisfaction, he said, of a mission accomplished.

The voice of France was heard in the world, thanks to the international standing of President Giscard d'Estaing, and its vocation to defend peace, uphold human rights, promote the construction of Europe, and demonstrate French solidarity with Africa had been fulfilled, within the framework of the independence of French foreign policy. That last point was one on which he laid particular emphasis.

Britain was not mentioned during the question and answer session and it showed how much things have changed since "the English affair," as it is called here, poisoned relations between the two countries, and threatened the European Community with disruption.

But the Foreign Minister poured a good deal of cold water on Mrs Thatcher's initiative in favour of a multinational peace-keeping force in the

Gulf. "The issue was not raised in the course of my talks in Washington," he emphasized. "And there is no question of extending the field of responsibility of Nato to the Gulf, or of setting up another Nato there."

"The Gulf States have said plainly that a matter for the area was a matter for the State senate." Free circulation in the Strait of Hormuz was essential to world peace. France had sent naval units to the area, and that was that.

He insisted on the importance of the European initiative for peace settlement in the Middle East. This was not directed against the Camp David agreement, but "parallel to it."

France insisted on Israel's right to recognition and security; and to the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination. "The two objectives are not contradictory but complementary," he said.

He drew a nice diplomatic distinction between the absence of bilateral differences between France and Libya, and the existence of differences between them over Chad. The standpoint of France was that expressed by the Lagos conference on Libyan intervention.

French policy in Africa was not based on military intervention but on development, he said hotly in reply to a question on whether France had not intervened in Chad because it



M Francois-Poncet: Sense of a mission fulfilled.

did not have adequate forces to do so.

"France means to respect Africa, not to abandon it," he said. "France did more than respect the sovereignty of the African states, it also defended it when it was threatened." In Chad, France had been asked to withdraw, and had done so.

He denied vehemently that President Giscard d'Estaing had ever said Poland was part of the Soviet block. He had referred to the country's geographical position. French policy had been clearly summed

up by the President's phrase in a recent television interview that "Poland must be allowed to live."

It was greatly to be wished that there should be neither direct intervention in Poland, nor any pressure on it from outside.

No, there were no plans for Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of the independent trade union movement, Solidarity, to be received by the President or the Quai d'Orsay.

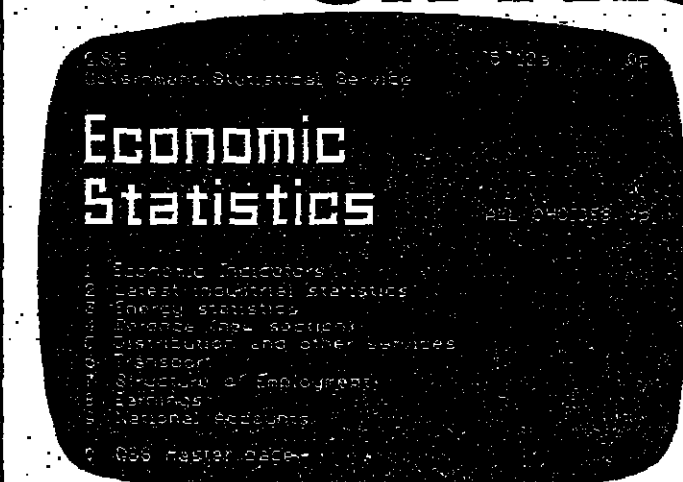
He said relations between the French Government and the Reagan Administration had begun well.

France was happy to see a strong and stable United States. And the United States showed that it was ready to take into consideration the views and interests of the Europeans. The independent policy of France was understood and appreciated.

Asked by a Japanese correspondent what the special ministerial committee on Japanese exports was up to, M Francois-Poncet replied that "France has great consideration for Japan, for its role in the world, and its economic success."

But, he added, the concentration of Japanese exports in some sectors could prove a threat to the European economy. France has no intention of allowing this to develop unchecked.

SEE THE ECONOMY BREAKDOWN ON PAGE 5712.



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Football

Tired Ipswich deserve acclaim for salvaging replay

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent
 Nottingham Forest 3 Ipswich 1
 Whether Nottingham Forest did so well to recover from two abject goals or Ipswich Town deserved acclaim for salvaging a replay after hopes of the "double" faded on Saturday, the consequences of the combined effort was a superbly entertaining game. The City ground in a spell of capitulating excitement. Ipswich had returned from their triumph in the FA Cup final round to find the City ground in a spell of capitulating excitement. Ipswich had returned from their triumph in the FA Cup final round to find the City ground in a spell of capitulating excitement.

minutes before Francis again produced for the highest individual praise. Muhren might have scored at the end of one sweeping, field-length movement and soon regretted his mistake. Francis always raised the crowd's expectation of the unusual, indeed they presumed he would succeed as Butcher went across to intercept him almost on the touchline. He could not believe, Butcher said later, "I had him, but he wasn't there". Francis ran towards a battery of photographers at the near post, told them a dummy, pulled the goal back across the goal and Walsh knocked the ball in.

Although Mills had to be withdrawn into the right back position vacated by Anderson, Forest's midfield still governed much of a second half that was absorbing without being as compelling as the first. Only five minutes had gone when Points, an effective substitute on the right side, rammed a low centre that Walsh blocked with his arm. Robertson did not have to send Cooper the wrong way with the penalty, the goalkeeper had already chosen the other side.

With nine minutes to go Forest were in a strong position. Mr. Robson had shown his acceptance of the situation by taking off a defender, McCall, and asking O'Callaghan to make haste on the wing. He admitted that the first time in three months Ipswich had allowed opponents to take a match from them and now even they best every outfield player on the pitch they still had to get past Shilton, presumably without Forest's help.

Suddenly the fear lifted. Walsh gave Thijssen the ball in a marked position and the Dutchman attempted a shot without much hope of satisfaction. Burns and Mills gave it more attention than it deserved and a deflection totally confused Shilton, who had turned in the air to see the ball curl into the post. Shilton could not remember so many "freakish" goals, all in his own net, but they made this tie one of the most extraordinary in recent years.

Forest's first, a goal which was a surprise to the Ipswich players, was scored by a player who was not in the team. It was a goal which was a surprise to the Ipswich players, was scored by a player who was not in the team. It was a goal which was a surprise to the Ipswich players, was scored by a player who was not in the team.

Powerful was a tie on which Power left mar

By Tom German

Manchester City 2 Everton 0
 No one expected the niceties to overshadow an unflinching commitment. No one did. It was hard and raw, often scrappy, as tense as all time. In the end, the sentence is pronounced, as unpredictable as a feminine response, yet an FA Cup quarter-final round tie from the mould of the old days, full of breathless action and suspense.

A late goal, when hope was surging, refocused Manchester City's sights on a place in the semi-finals in what, for them, has been a remarkable season. They deserved another chance. Like Everton, they have come to inject a lot of effort into the tie. In the first half, Manchester City's search for a goal was hampered by a defensive wall of Merseyside's right flank, usually propelled by Power, which was as well fashioned as anything in the match.



The hallelujah chorus has lost even its cup glory

By Clive White

Tottenham 2 Exeter 0
 Nothing kills a conversion more than when two sides are in complete agreement. When the two sides are in complete agreement, the conversion is lost. This was the case in the Tottenham vs Exeter match, where the hallelujah chorus lost even its cup glory.

congratulated the Exeter supporters on their vocal power. Their choice of ends—because that's where the action is to be—sure enough, in the end, a huddle was all that was left. A huddle was all that was left. A huddle was all that was left.

Wolves must beware the red badge of courage

By Stuart Jones

Middlesbrough 1 Wolverhampton 1
 With his shoes deep in the Axminster Park mud, the defender of the Newcastle Brown Band was in trouble. In front of a full house, a puff of wind caught his hair and he blew it along the touchline. After a pause for a brief breath, he went on waving his baton with the brio of a Barbirolli. He will be a member how that crucial blow, a potentially embarrassing moment on his big day. Middlesbrough may care to forget that they failed to cope with a psychological breeze blew away whatever they were using for an on-field score and extemporization was not the answer.

Armsong missed all this. He was in the dressing-room at the time, having 18 stitches put in his forehead. Middlesbrough were not complete without Armsong, so it was fitting that they should equalize on his return and that he should be the one to score the winning goal. Wolves, so successful in Cup competition, must beware the red badge of courage. Wolves, so successful in Cup competition, must beware the red badge of courage.

Measures of success and failure: one finger points the way out for Everton's Ratcliffe; two for Walsh's victory sign, and three for Robson trophy treble chance.

Pugnacious quality of Villa will keep leaders extended

By Norman Fox

Having fostered so well on the excitement of Ipswich Town's FA Cup draw at Nottingham, Villa would have appeared impudent to mention in the same breath that within that absorbing performance there were some hints that their designs on the "double" were endangered by doubts about their fitness of Gates, who has a bruised leg, and Forest will be without Anderson who has a dislocated shoulder.

Ipswich still have a considerable advantage over Villa on goal difference, and that could be decisive. They have scored 14 in their last four games whereas Villa's victories have been less conclusive, at least judging by the scorers. Even so, Sunderland, beaten 2-1 at Roker Park on Saturday, were impressed with the way Villa continued to press forward after taking an early lead.

Wolverhampton Wanderers will return to league business next Saturday realizing that the reawakening of Leicester City, which was probably induced by an embarrassing cup defeat by Exeter City, has pulled them into the relegation vortex. They have two games in hand, but Brighton and Hove Albion, despite a timorous performance against Norwich City last week, improved their hopes by beating Coventry City 4-1 and Leicester benefited from Arsenal's absence of luck to win 1-0, Stapleton missing several chances.

Whatever the effect on the morale of a disturbing 4-1 home defeat by Dinamo Tbilisi, West Ham United remain unquestionably the best second division team. Their lead increased to 10 points on Saturday when they won Newcastle United 2-1. Ipswich County lost at home to Luton Town, but Bob Paisley, the Liverpool manager who was doing his homework at Upton Park before next Saturday's League Cup final, said nothing to concern him apart from Brooklands' ability to play exciting football in clinging mud. Devonshire, who he regards with respect, was absent but is expected to have recovered from knee and ankle injuries in time for the final.

Bailey's achievement

By David Powell

Charlton Athletic 1 Barnsley 1
 With Charlton Athletic's financial resources earmarked for the development of young players and the construction of England's first all-seater football stadium, Mike Bailey, the club's manager, is nearing the completion of an unusual achievement: Charlton remain clear leaders of the third division even though Mr Bailey has not yet paid out any money in transfer fees to strengthen his squad.

Apart from Navlor, who arrived at the Valley on a free transfer, Charlton have relied on much more than money to build up their team. The club's manager, Mike Bailey, is nearing the completion of an unusual achievement: Charlton remain clear leaders of the third division even though Mr Bailey has not yet paid out any money in transfer fees to strengthen his squad.

Encouragement for Rangers

By Vince Wright

Blackburn 1 QPR 0
 Rangers are in contention for a first division place themselves and remain in a promising position despite these recent setbacks. The manager, Currie, and his players must be encouraged by the fact that, apart from West Ham United, the sides above them look rain on Friday following by a first division place themselves and remain in a promising position despite these recent setbacks.

The chief honours fell to the midfield men, Francis and Currie showed the skill and vision which made them England players and for Blackburn, Kendall, the proven manager, and Broadbent proved that graft can be as important as craft. The result sets Blackburn up nicely for next Saturday's home match against third-placed club, Sheffield Wednesday.

QPR wait on artificial pitch

By Norman Fox

Queen's Park Rangers may know by the end of the month whether the Football League will allow them to become the first to install an artificial pitch. The League's Management Committee met yesterday to hear the Rangers' chairman, Jim Gregory, request that permission be given, but no firm decision was taken.

Development of different sizes and better drainage have brought the widest range of artificial pitches in the United States have proved a great success are not coming to the United States. The American Soccer League, which has appeared on their artificial pitches, have mixed feelings.

Leading goalscorers
 First Division: S. Armitage (Tot.) 17, J. Robertson (Ipswich) 17, G. Cross (Sheff.) 16, M. Harrison (Ipswich) 15, S. Morgan (Sheff.) 14, D. B. Dalziel (Sheff.) 13, P. Easton (Exeter) 12.

Second Division: R. G. Gray (Sheff.) 17, J. Robertson (Ipswich) 17, G. Cross (Sheff.) 16, M. Harrison (Ipswich) 15, S. Morgan (Sheff.) 14, D. B. Dalziel (Sheff.) 13, P. Easton (Exeter) 12.

Third Division: R. G. Gray (Sheff.) 17, J. Robertson (Ipswich) 17, G. Cross (Sheff.) 16, M. Harrison (Ipswich) 15, S. Morgan (Sheff.) 14, D. B. Dalziel (Sheff.) 13, P. Easton (Exeter) 12.

Fourth Division: R. G. Gray (Sheff.) 17, J. Robertson (Ipswich) 17, G. Cross (Sheff.) 16, M. Harrison (Ipswich) 15, S. Morgan (Sheff.) 14, D. B. Dalziel (Sheff.) 13, P. Easton (Exeter) 12.

Celtic make hard work of eliminating part-timers

By Iain Mackenzie

East Stirling 0 Celtic 2
 A rainbow arced down the middle of Celtic Park. A Glasgow Celtic half, during the first half of this Scottish Cup fifth round tie, East Stirlingshire, the last fight for only the third time in their history, hoped that in their century season there might be something for them at the end of the rainbow.

For the part-timers from Falkirk, fighting to avoid relegation to the lowest league, there was one honour in defeat, against a Celtic side which, yesterday, accepted, is gradually returning to something like the form of the great days of the 60s and 70s. They were only 1-0 behind at the interval but the difference in class was almost embarrassing.

Otherwise the crowd of just under 20,000 was in protest. Frustration as Celtic, capable of scoring half a dozen against such inferior opposition, had limited opposition had limited opposition, space enough for four teams and only one goal after 70 minutes. That arrived after 25 minutes, and the work of the proven did the early grafting. McGrath took over and Provan took over and Provan took over and Provan took over.

It was rather like watching Scotland's Zai or Fraser. Celtic moved at three-quarter pace and the approach work was laboriously overdone and at times almost listless. A packed defence, sometimes comprising 11 men, survived 12 corners and as many near misses before the second goal arrived 18 minutes from time.

Weekend results and tables

FA Cup: Sixth round	First Division	Second Division	Third Division	Fourth Division
Manchester City 2 Everton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0
Nottingham Forest 3 Ipswich 1	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0
Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0

First Division	Second Division	Third Division	Fourth Division
Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0
Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0
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First Division	Second Division	Third Division	Fourth Division
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First Division	Second Division	Third Division	Fourth Division
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First Division	Second Division	Third Division	Fourth Division
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First Division	Second Division	Third Division	Fourth Division
Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0	Sheff. Wed 1, Charlton 0
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THE ARTS

Snap New End

Irving Wardle

Edward Muggenridge, alias Edward Muggenridge, is known to the history of photography as the father of the moving picture. He it was in 1877 who set up 24 cameras with trip wires on a race track, thereby proving that the horse does not gallop but rather jumps. What Muggenridge sought to do in this Foco Novo production is that no one is so blind as the man behind the viewfinder.

Snap gives a highly selective account of Muggenridge's professional and private life; beginning with his departure from Kingston-upon-Thames to California, trying pan in hand, to join the Gold Rush, and taking the swiftly through his days of street trading before settling him in a San Francisco studio, engaging a team of models: a can-can dancer; midwife, a bogus British sailor, and young Flora whom he married.

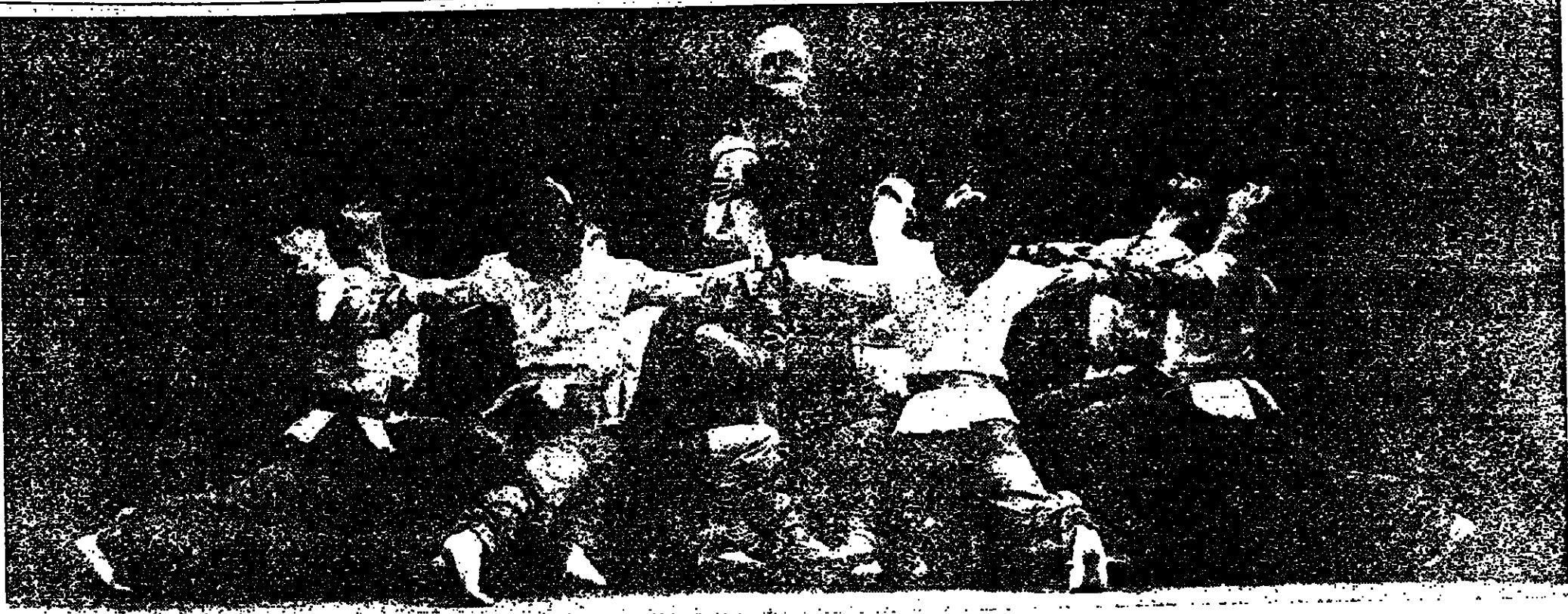
They strip off and go through their turns, freezing into poses of light as Muggenridge resumes his lecture to the house, ever more absorbed in his work, and wholly unaware of the intimate relationship between his neglected wife and the moustache-stroking Barry, until she gives birth to a child strikingly resembling his male model. Muggenridge promptly seeks him out and kills him, winning a court acquittal.

The play is not a career story with a bit of scandal on the

side. Rather it is a Faustian fable, showing that the pursuit of reality is the surest way of losing it. Muggenridge brings his betrayers together, and watches their naked revels, but all he sees is an objective record of the human body in motion. As he observes mournfully at the end, "perhaps the one who participates cannot photograph."

Nor everything in the play supports its main argument, and some essentials have been squeezed out. We never learn, for instance, why Muggenridge needed to conduct his motion studies with nudes; nor why he abandoned photography in his last years. The dialogue, too, founders between sentences, pronouncements and idioms ("a womb with a viewfinder") without achieving a clear statement of the aesthetic exhibition of his work elsewhere in the theatre. Finally, the joke music accompaniment by one Steve Adler allows the production to hedge its bets; if you lose track of the argument, you can view its hero simply as an amusing eccentric.

On the whole Roland Rees's production is much too good for such devaluation. Set (by Adrian Vyas) between many black walls like the inside of a box camera, it excels in divided action (childbirth screams coinciding with photographic prophecies), positive/negative light changes, agile scenic transformation within a tiny space, and reverse camera work, showing Flora arising from the dead. Oliver Ford Davies, eyes frantically blazing over a bushy beard, is inventively supported by Collette Hiller, Lucinda Curtis, and Jonathan Burn.



The Sage (Yair Vardi) embraces the Chosen One (Sally Owen) in *The Rite of Spring*

'Rite' scaled down to a harsh and primitive picture

Ballet Rambert Sadler's Wells

John Percival

When you are accustomed, as most of us are, to the great volume of orchestral sound in *The Rite of Spring*, it is highly disconcerting to experience Stravinsky's piano arrangement for four hands which was actually the first published version. Consequently, my reaction to Richard Alston's new ballet, first given on the opening night of Ballet Rambert's London season at Sadler's Wells on Friday, is somewhat mixed, and I give it in the knowledge that further performances may

swing my opinion either way. On the one hand, I see that Alston has concerned himself, more than any other choreographer whose Rite I have seen, with Stravinsky's subtle "Pictures of Pagan Russia". The outcome proves unexpectedly like a contemporary description, by Jacques Riviere, of Nijinsky's original choreography as "a biological ballet, the harsh struggle of growth, the panic terror from the rising of the sap, the fearful regrouping of the cells."

The bright, clear tone of the music relates it more closely to Les Noces, Stravinsky's other ritual invocation of Russian life. It was sensible of Alston to take Bronislava Nijinska's

choreography for *Noces* (reputedly inspired by her brother's Rite) as a model for her own choreography, and for Anne Cuyon's costumes similarly to derive more from Gontcharova's *Noces* designs than from Roerich's *Rite*.

There are many virtues in the choreography. I remember especially the way the four women comfort each other in the opening passage, some sharply incised turning jumps in one of the big ensembles, the shuffling procession of the adolescent girls and the adolescent man sneaking a quick cuddle with each of them in turn. The idea of letting him shilly-shally until one of them in effect chooses herself as the sacrificial victim,

however, is excellent. Anyway, we must be thankful that Diaghilev asked for a huge orchestration for *Rite*, since that helped bring Marie Rambert into ballet, initially to help Nijinsky analyze the music. And we can admire Richard Alston's courage and intelligence in finding a way to bring that musical masterpiece into the repertoire of the company she founded.

The other new work on the same programme, *Figures of Wind*, is a real oddity. Cliff Keuter's choreography sets the four couples moving with an agreeable energy to some aggressive old music, excerpts from oboe concert and concerti grossi by Albinoni, Torelli and

Manfredini. That is all very pleasant, innocuous but not outstanding.

Before and between the dances, they perform unintelligibly portentous gestures in silence. Behind them is a backdrop, also conceived by Keuter, showing tall rocks like decayed teeth in a barren landscape. That change for a while to a sort of black amoeba. Keuter's programme note tells us of "a spot where the dead pause before travelling on". It seems to me like a half-baked idea that completely fails to come off. The component parts remaining as unappealingly separate from each other as a disastrous experiment in the kitchen.

The Little Foxes Playhouse, Nottingham

Ned Chaillet

Whatever else Richard Diebly, director of the Nottingham Playhouse, has in his face, it is a certain sense of humour. In the face of his audience, he is the broad mix of young couples, students and adventurous elders, the first night audience for *The Little Foxes* was noticeably senior and his choice of plays has seemingly encouraged serenity rather than excitement.

Not that Lillian Hellman's play is unworthy in itself. It is a fine, well-crafted drama with deep emotional values. As a picture of the complex social currents of the American South it has few rivals. With clear motives and complex characters, it is laced with magnificence as against the Strindberg of Tennessee Williams where the decline of the former slave-owning aristocracy produces explosions of the unconscious.

Mr Day has made it a vehicle for Jill Bennett and, looking very handsome and predatory, has the presence for the part of Regina, the scheming wife who plans to make herself

privately wealthy with her husband's money, even if it means killing him. Unfortunately Mr Day's production does not hold together well enough to keep her in focus.

One crucially miscast part, that of the desperate and weak brother, Oscar, needs more of the quality of an ageing bully than Michael Tudor Barnes can represent, and without that weakness the tension is sacrificed. In better moments there are reasonable contributions from Edward Harwicke, as Regina's husband, and particularly from Jane Wenham as the alcoholic wife of Oscar who uses her voice with swoops of patterns like the flight of a skylark, and such characters allow the play to bump up and down in interest, but such adequacy is not quite enough.

At the beginning too many different versions of the southern accent intrude and the incestuous family bickering sounds more as if the arguments were being phoned in from different states. At the conclusion, when most of the impact has been rescued by impassioned acting, there is no trace of the South. Death and excitement have restored the rule of RADA.

LPO/Rostropovich Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

In a season of almost total neglect of living composers by the big London orchestras, it was encouraging to find on Thursday a large audience gathered to witness the British premiere of *Time's space movement* by Henri Dutilleul. Now in his mid-60s, Dutilleul is a kind of French equivalent to Tippett or Lutoslawski, a composer who has learned from his younger colleagues, but nevertheless remains wholly himself and true to a style reaching back to the period between the wars. In the manner of French independents his output is small, consisting of two symphonies, recently recorded, and fewer than a dozen other important works.

The new piece, composed in 1977, is typical of him. There is something Boulez-like in the subtlety of its scoring for full wind ensemble with cellos, double basses and percussion, and in its perpetual renewal of im-

palpable ideas, but it reminded me too, particularly in its harmony, of Berg and early Messiaen, Ravel and Mahler, while maintaining a certain feel of its own, a curious mixture of lowering oppression and crystalline elegance. Dutilleul has revealed that the stimulus for this came from Van Gogh's late painting *The Starry Night*, although what he hears in Van Gogh is only himself.

Of the two short movements, the first, obsessively fixed on G sharp, is entirely successful, with its three waves of nebulous development, each more forceful than the last. The second, a cor anglais theme in the middle, and at the end the breath-taking entrance of the cellos at the height of a gathering storm in the wind. But the second movement is a disappointing vulgar in its rush to end with a bang. The whole work was, however, strongly urged by the London Philharmonic under Rostropovich. Next time he must return with the concerto Dutilleul wrote for him.

The Seven Dials Mystery London Weekend

Michael Church

Some programmes start out with so much going for them that it amounts to a positive handicap. *The Seven Dials Mystery* came to us on the wings of lavish long-range publicity, money from Mobil Oil, a colossal gap in the schedules, a fleet of vintage cars and a galaxy of stars amid whom Sir John Gielgud and Cheryl Campbell would play father and daughter. And all to reanimate an obscure confection by Agatha Christie: as flops went, this would surely be the big one.

But it was not. Apart from one minor quibble (Gielgud seemed more like Miss Campbell's genial old great-uncle than her father) my astonished verdict is nothing but praise. The millions around the world on whom television co-productions are regularly foisted will in this case get their vicariously-spent money's worth.

Tony Wharmby's direction represented an expert restoration job, and Pat Sanday's adaptation entirely eliminated that creeping frowniness which time has laid on Agatha Christie's work. Easy to write, not requiring too much plotting, the play is a masterpiece of haviour, but who would have thought the deadly Dials could possessing at the same time a slightly unreal air. The direction had gripping pace. Mere entertainment? Yes, and why not? There is a lovely clip of the Berry Brothers doing jumping splits all over the place. Fosse had a lot to say about choreographing with the camera, and about the differences between stage and screen. Intricate stuff, which I shall remember.

Having found Bob Fosse's award-winning film *All That Jazz* quite suffocatingly pretentious I was not surprised to



Cheryl Campbell

enough clues to suggest the identity of the villain without making anything too obviously clear. It would have taken a black belt at Cluedo to predict the final twist.

Limping along at the bottom of the class I doggedly backed the saturnine Sir Oswald until my companion pointed out the suave Thesiger's suspicious behaviour, but who would have thought the deadly Dials could possessing at the same time a slightly unreal air. The direction had gripping pace. Mere entertainment? Yes, and why not? There is a lovely clip of the Berry Brothers doing jumping splits all over the place. Fosse had a lot to say about choreographing with the camera, and about the differences between stage and screen. Intricate stuff, which I shall remember.

Having found Bob Fosse's award-winning film *All That Jazz* quite suffocatingly pretentious I was not surprised to

learn from last night's *Southern Bank Show* (LWT) that it had sprung out of his quest for the meaning of life and death. But Fosse was also the creator of *Cabaret* and scores of other splendid entertainments: under Melvyn Bragg's competent questioning he and his career opened out in a fascinating way.

As the footage proved, Fosse had been a marvellous dancer. For such terpsichorean tricks as jumping splits he had turned to black performers for inspiration, and we saw a lovely clip of the Berry Brothers doing jumping splits all over the place. Fosse had a lot to say about choreographing with the camera, and about the differences between stage and screen. Intricate stuff, which I shall remember.

Blair Brown inspired by the Russell touch

Blair Brown's first starring role in Hollywood does not, on the face of it, seem too promising. She is the romantic interest in a film in which the leading man turns into an ape. Yet Ken Russell's *Altered States*, based on a science fiction novel by Paddy Chayevsky, has been a surprise hit in America. Miss Brown—who in her early career narrowly avoided becoming a go-go dancer in the British television programme *Ready, Steady, Go!*—has emerged from this latest exotic endeavour as a sought-after leading lady.



Blair Brown

The pseudo-scientific plot concerns a researcher, played by William Hurt, who immerses himself in a tank of water for extended periods. He does so to probe altered states of consciousness and, after sitting in on a Mexican sacred mushroom ceremony, he succeeds in taking his body back in time to earlier forms of human development. The most spectacular scene occurs when, in a temporary regression to the cave man, he escapes from the tank, assaults a guard and does unspeakable things with mountain sheep in Boston Zoo.

If all this sounds cranky in summary, imagine how hard it must be to act it with any conviction. Through it all, Miss Brown is required to play the role of an understanding wife, herself an anthropologist. (There is a vogue in Hollywood for brainy women: in a film she has just finished she is an ornithologist.) In *Altered States* she is almost the only sane person in the screenplay. She has her husband's children, worries about his sanity, divorces him and in the end joins him in turning into a human embryo.

She does it all with aplomb, helped by her having some

dancing role in the show but then was accepted for the Montreal Drama School and went to Canada instead.

She had never consciously planned to be an actress; she had visions of being a surgeon or a scientist before she dropped out of college after two years. "Like Spencer Tracy thought acting wasn't a profession for a grown man, I thought it wasn't for a grown woman," she says.

Those unmoved by Russell's hallucinatory visions might feel that this film is not for a grown person to be seen in, but it has clearly struck a chord with American filmgoers, feeding their current taste for the surreal and the fantastic.

Now that she has finished playing her ornithologist (in a film to be called *Continental Divide*), Miss Blair is temporarily not working. She is going back to Malibu to do up the neo-Gothic (1950) mini-castle she shares with her boyfriend. It is not that she has lacked offers, but she has not found a part she can get to grips with. "There aren't any good parts for women in movies at the moment," she says. "Come to think of it, there aren't many good parts for men. I guess it's just not a good time for human beings."

She is looking for a serious character role. "All those Australian movies we have here at the moment and are doing such good box-office—they have strong character roles but you couldn't raise 25 cents to make a movie like that here. All the parts I've been reading are just women reacting to men and I don't want that." I suppose, once you have reacted to your husband turning into an ape-man, everything else seems tame.

Michael Leapman

Book review

God's Fifth Column

A biography of the age: 1890-1940

By William Gerhardie

Edited with an introduction by Michael Holroyd and Robert Slade (Hodder & Stoughton, £11.95).

Soon it will be sixty years since that enchanting first novel, *Futility*, made everyone talk about William Gerhardie. How perfectly it matched its moment. It came early in the nineteenth century, the only hopeful decade of this century. Constance Garnett was still translating Chekhov's tales and plays. *Futility's* Russian themes were actually and artistically topical. They spanned pre and post-revolution, more than the St Petersburg to Vladivostok, and the gay, sometimes comic atmosphere was not spoilt by a "happy ending".

This astonishing young man followed his success with a second novel, *The Playboys*, with a fine study of Chekhov, and *The Bad End*, a short story one still remembers. Then something went wrong. New volumes appeared. Collected editions were twice launched. The magic had gone. Arnold Bennett, more than once declared William Gerhardie to be a genius. Bennett's practical, professional mind generally made him add a "but..."

Gerhardie (he added the final "t" sometime in his long life) died in 1977, almost unknown to the new generation. There were hopes of a last great novel being discovered among his papers, as there had been of a Sibyllian eighth symphony. Instead there came to light the present work, finished in 1942. What is it? The title is no help. Gerhardie gives various interpretations of the meaning of "God's fifth column".

Hovering over his biography of the half-century from 1890 to 1940 are the Spirits of Anger, Irony, Frustration, Pity, and Scorn. At times one recalls the mood induced by Shaw's preface to *Heartbreak House*, at others Robert Sherwood's *Idiot's Delight*. Never for a moment is Gerhardie placid or dull.

Carlyle's *French Revolution* has been described as history seen by lightning flash. *God's Fifth Column* is history enacted by a motley of its makers presented under brilliant and carefully arranged spotlights. First on stage is Margot Tennant. Seemingly an odd choice. But she was not only a British social

leader but also the future wife of the future Prime Minister who was to lead us to war. Gerhardie's opening paragraph epitomizes his method.

As the century entered its last decade, Margot Tennant was twenty-six, with four more years of dazzling spinsterhood ahead before becoming Mrs. Asquith. William II, turned thirty-one, had been sitting on the German throne for two years, in exaltation, in excitement, Hitler was approaching his first birthday. Tolstoy had put sixty-two years behind him, and was faced with twenty more to unravel the angry dust in. The century was getting on in flippancy, gestures and mignish signs.

The Empress Frederick, Alexander III, Chekhov, John Morley, F. E. Smith, D. H. Lawrence, Bismarck, Curzon, Bal-four, are quickly added. Hitler's four is contested with Lawrence's mother, William Tennant's Bryan, Tchaikovsky, Wilde, Zola, Seeley, Froude, Chamberlain, Kipling (and other romantic imperialists play their parts. Here are A. G. Gardiner's *Prophecy*, *Prisoners*, and *Kings* and not reflectively but in action.

God's Fifth Column is history, however idiosyncratic. It is on the move all the time. It rises to heights of description: the deaths of Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Froude. It is a theme of their own to the book: the slow descent to execution of the Tsar and his family, with the Empress mending the Emperor's trousers along the way; the inexorable approach of both world wars; Lenin's train journey back to Russia, and the kaleidoscope of the Revolution—all are memorable. The dashing of Curzon's ultimate ambition shows what he can do on a miniature scale.

The book's crowning irony is its Epilogue. The new world that Gerhardie declared forty years ago was being unmade, scarcely demanded, is now far further away than ever. International and national lawlessness circle the globe. The world's evils show no signs of being susceptible to Beethoven or Mozart. Far from "the structurally admirable United States" serving as a model to the rest of the world, nationalism is rampant. Nobility is, however, not to be scorned because it is being revered. Mr Gerhardie's last book has not the perfection of his first, but it is a continuously readable, stimulating, and impressive work.

William Haley

ECO/Kraemer Queen Elizabeth Hall

Hilary Finch

In 1932 a film company made a blunder that cost them 70,000 francs (the English Chamber Orchestra's imaginative programming often provides a good story). They asked Ravel to write some music for Challepin to sing in a film about the Quixote, secretly and foolishly counted four other composers as well, including Ibert, whose version they chose. They were promptly sued by Ravel.

Thomas Allen's persuasive performance on Friday made it clear that we still hear too little of Ravel's last work, the three songs of Don Quixote à Dulcinée. Each one is based on a Spanish or Basque dance: the pulsating, horn-flecked "Chanson romanesque" was sung with delightfully urbane passion; the swirling final "Chanson à boire" was taut of diction, tone and rhythm but lies just a little too low for Ravel to project it with quite enough panache.

Between the two, like a fallow field, lies the "Chanson épique", a sombre prayer to Saint Michael and the Madonna, who, as in Schumann's *Dichterliebe*, re-

minds the young man of his other Lady: on Friday it was beautifully coloured and shaped vocally and orchestrally.

Ravel's *Pavane pour une Infante défunte* was a sensitive bridge between this and Mr Allen's contribution to the first, baroque half of the evening, three arias from Handel's *Alcinaide*. The chase almost got out of hand in the central scene of Apollo's pursuit, and Mr Allen seemed uncertain about quite how to treat his *da capo* vocally in two flanking crises which were sung nevertheless with poised, sustained ease, as elegantly and confidently as they were supported orchestrally.

When Neil Black and James Brown, oboes, took their well-deserved bow after the opening *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, they pointed another particularly apt piece of programming. Not only in that work, but also in Handel's Op 3 No 4 Concerto Grosso and in Haydn's Symphony No 90, they, together with the bassoon and flute, made the very most of every opportunity to lighten, reinvigorate and freshen the orchestral texture. Their playing, as co-stars of the evening, was a constant delight.

New conductor with a new symphony

The Greek conductor Spiros Argiris, who works regularly at the Cologne Opera, makes his British debut at St John's, Smith Square, on March 28 with the first public performance in Britain of Elliott Carter's first symphony. The orchestra is the Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra, with which Mr Argiris has also conducted Mahler's fifth symphony.

Ballet gala

Marguerite Porter, Mikhail Messerer, Wayne Sleep, Maine Gielgud, Robert Darius will be among the artists appearing at the gala at Sadler's Wells on March 15 in aid of the scholarship fund for the Urdang Academy of Ballet and Performing Arts.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from Friday's later editions

Edward Hopper



Arts Council of Great Britain

11 February-29 March
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also showing: William Johnstone

Cricket

Dawdling Gower pays price of meeting an uninhibited King

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Bridgetown, March 8

Robert Jackman soon made an impact here today—on the field and in the stands. On the field, he was a much better batsman than when he was in England. On the stands, he was a much better batsman than when he was in England. On the field, he was a much better batsman than when he was in England. On the stands, he was a much better batsman than when he was in England.

Against Botham and Stevenson, of nothing like the same pace as Clarke, Daniel and Marshall, Greenidge played with a more relaxed stroke, but Jackman, once he had picked up his line, had a few catches at the wicket. Embury bowled beautifully having George Reifer dropped at slip and Greenidge and Trotman then caught there by Botham.

In the hour before tea, Barbados scored 67 without loss: in the two hours afterwards they made another 66 while losing Haynes, Greenidge and Trotman.

Barbados are playing three fast bowlers rather than their customary four (Garner is resting and Alleyne unfit) but even with Padmore, the off-spinner, bowling more overs than any of them, the islands over-rate was still miserably slow and the amount of shirt stuff unattractively high. With another Test match coming up, it was ominous to see so many bouncers passing unchecked. From Clarke and Marshall there were usually two an over, often three. For four-and-a-half hours yes-

terday, Boycott ducked and weaved and searched around for scoring chances. This was his sixth first-class innings of the tour and the fifth time he has reached 70 without going on to his hundred. He put it down to a lack of cricketing instinct to get into the way of playing a long innings. Also, of course, the constant wear of facing fast bowling takes its toll.

The best of the England batting came when Boycott and Gower were together and before Gower allowed himself to be unhelpfully run out. Having gone down the pitch and hit Padmore hard and straight to King at deep mid-off, Gower was bowled around, knowing it to have been the last ball of the over. For want of anything better to do King, an uninhibited creature, hurled the ball back to the bowler, and turned away, it occurring to no one to him to Gower that anything might come of it.

With Murray taking off the hair before the umpire had called over or Gower had batted to be given out, Boycott's pleading on Gower's behalf, on the grounds that the ball was dead, was unavailing.

Gatting promised well for half an hour: Butcher lived happily for two hours and a quarter on the long-on, and a quater Milburn, mouth watering, felt that Padmore "got away with murder". Yet it was in his trying to hit him back over his head that Boycott and then Butcher were out.

This morning, in two hours, England added 67 runs to their over. Willey, dropped twice at slip off Marshall, making 41 of them. Botham, determined this time not to get himself out, took nearly three hours to get 40. He had recovered from a nasty knock on the box from Clarke and was promising something worth seeing when he was caught at the wicket.

After lunch, with bouncers still abounding, Willey was caught at the wicket off Clarke, who bowled Stevenson in the same over. Jackman, generously enough, retrieved a nasty little misunderstanding with Bairstow, which led to Bairstow being run out. When Jackman was bowled, England's innings had lasted eight hours 50 minutes—or 132.4

Ice skating

Coming to terms with the world

From John Hennessy
Hartford, March 8

It is the morning after the tumultuous night before and the two charming young skaters from Nottingham still find it hard to come to terms with what they have achieved. Their eyes carry a hint of the triumph of having won the world ice-dance championship here last night, but their mood is still one of sweet bewilderment.

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean seemed different people from those who produced such historic changes of mood on the ice, according to the demands of the music, notably the haughty arrogance of the past double. "I don't feel any different from yesterday," Dean said. "There is almost a sense of anti-climax now it's all over."

Their accomplishment here hardly seemed possible when the season began. The rise from sixth place to first, even in the wake of the usual post-Olympic deflation, is an astonishing advance, which may help to allay further the natural concern of some city rate-payers at the grant of £40,000 for the next three years to help to sustain their attempt on the Olympic gold medal at Sarajevo three years hence. So might the proud legend "City of Nottingham" shining from their rack suits before the world's press last night.

They had been drawn to skate first of the five leading couples, a disadvantageous position as a general principle, but at least it spared the nerve-wracking wait in the dressing-rooms listening to the volleys of applause won by their opponents. On the other hand, the judges are prone to mark with

caution to allow some leeway for any blockbuster that might follow.

One big one's fears about the strength character of Miss Torvill and Dean, 23 and 22 respectively, who come from humble backgrounds and are not among nature's extroverts. In the event they were superb, responding magnificently to the highly-charged atmosphere created by a stadium crammed to the rafters with nearly 13,000. They were better even than at Innsbruck a month ago, when they won the European title in front of comparatively speaking, a handful of on-lookers.

"That victory," their trainer, Betty Callaway, says, "gave them more authority." It showed. This was ice-dance of the highest quality in the British tradition of the ballroom, a recognizably brilliant extension of the polite dance's quickstep, tango, and rock 'n' roll, with an expressive speciality section thrown in. It was breathtaking stuff, courtship disaster from one perilous moment to the next as their flashing blades came near to collision, so millimetre-close is their control.

The British couple had two serious challengers as a result of the compulsory: Irina Moiseyeva and Andrei Minenkoff, former world champions for the Soviet Union, and Judy Blumberg and Michael Seifert, holders of the American title. The Russians gave a puzzling exhibition which seemed to have little to do with ice-dance, and were relegated from second place to third by Courtney Jones of Britain, alone among the nine judges. The Russian judge was in an equally isolated position of pursuing his compatriots above the British couple.

The Americans suffered a demoralizing setback within half a minute when Seifert caught a heel and they fell, for no reason that he himself could offer. They do, and subsequently did, any number of daring manoeuvres, and there was a cruel irony on his loss of concentration when absolutely no danger threatened. A fall in ice-dance is much more serious than in free skating, because, as Seifert himself said afterwards, "that's the name of the game". Their chance of any kind of medal was gone now, but they proceeded to give a performance that suggested what might have been.

The bronze medal in the end went to the dazzling second Russian couple, Natalia Bestemnova and Andrei Bukin. The second British couple, Karen Barber and Nicholas Slater, again skated with charm and vivacity to finish seventh, an advance of three places over last year, and Wendy Sessins and Stephen Williams took 11th place, a highly encouraging first appearance in this company.

The British victory was a special triumph for Mrs Callaway. After a decade of Russian domination she has won the world title on two successive occasions, with an Hungarian couple last year and now with a British. Had this victory come too soon, with Mrs Dean of Eastford, Nottingham said, "Chris rang from America soon after the results were announced. He just could not believe it. I do not think it has sunk in for either of them yet."

Mrs Betty Torvill, of Hartford, at the age of nine with her classmates. Now she has achieved her lifelong ambition. We are very grateful to Nottingham City Council for sponsoring them.

the realm of artistic skating she ranked second only to Denise Biellmann, the enchanting Swiss with the spectacular two-handed, overhead catch-foot spin, but their three triple jumps fell far short of the seven of Elaine Zayas, the 15-year-old American champion. The imminent retirement of Mrs Biellmann leaves us with the dispiriting prospect of a jumping machine succeeding in the world title. Where, oh where, is the message first broadcast by John Curry in 1976?

ICE DANCE: 1. Torvill and Dean, GB, 20.5; 2. Bestemnova and Bukin, USSR, 19.5; 3. Barber and Slater, GB, 18.5; 4. Sessins and Williams, GB, 17.5; 5. Moiseyeva and Minenkoff, USSR, 17.0; 6. Seifert and Blumberg, USA, 16.5; 7. Jones, GB, 16.0; 8. Slater and Barber, GB, 15.5; 9. Sessins and Williams, GB, 15.0; 10. Zayas, USA, 14.5; 11. Williams and Sessins, GB, 14.0; 12. Slater and Barber, GB, 13.5; 13. Sessins and Williams, GB, 13.0; 14. Zayas, USA, 12.5; 15. Williams and Sessins, GB, 12.0; 16. Slater and Barber, GB, 11.5; 17. Sessins and Williams, GB, 11.0; 18. Zayas, USA, 10.5; 19. Williams and Sessins, GB, 10.0; 20. Slater and Barber, GB, 9.5; 21. Sessins and Williams, GB, 9.0; 22. Zayas, USA, 8.5; 23. Williams and Sessins, GB, 8.0; 24. Slater and Barber, GB, 7.5; 25. Sessins and Williams, GB, 7.0; 26. Zayas, USA, 6.5; 27. Williams and Sessins, GB, 6.0; 28. Slater and Barber, GB, 5.5; 29. Sessins and Williams, GB, 5.0; 30. Zayas, USA, 4.5; 31. Williams and Sessins, GB, 4.0; 32. 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Profile of a royal look-alike Italy, Germany, a world cruise, one's diary is so full

The telephone went early a couple of weeks ago: it was Jeanette Charles (the lady who makes a fortune out of being a look-alike, she is in fact in no uncertain way, the Queen's double). Ms Charles sounded impatient.

"Look, I've been filming all week," she said with a great deal of irritability, "and I'm off to Italy to do a TV spectacular and I've not got much time... what can I do for you?" "I'm not sure," I replied sleepily, "you phoned me." Oh yes, well, I think someone from my management had seen your feature in the Express about Richard Todd, lovely man, and they suggested I call you to invite you down to have a look at my home and take some pictures of me and..."

"Give me the address," I pretend to search for a pen. Jeanette gives me the address. It is a detached country house, second on the right past the war memorial, by the pub, now what's the name of the pub, you must know it John..."

She complained about all these wretched reporters and press who never stop hounding her. One ghastly reporter, "cheeky beggar," had even expected her 19-year-old son to dress up in polo gear. "I ask you—I mean some people will stop at nothing..."

What did she think of the Genuine Article who recently had strong words with the press corps, who stalked her and her family in the grounds at Sandringham? "Yes, indeed, dreadful isn't it. You see I'm a Royalist. I don't care for the way the Royal family is being treated..."

Did she think about the consequences to the British Royal family since she specialized in TV commercials and programmes that would in all probability depict the Queen of England in bad light thereby capitalizing on someone who could not answer back. Hardly cricket?

"But I go as me: Jeanette Charles, when I'm abroad I do a lot of chat shows, not only in Italy but in France and Germany too; I'm me, not the Queen."

"But you do profess to be the Queen's look-alike and you concede, would you not, that since you dress up in all the regalia complete with tiara and blue sash, what's that the order of by the way?"

"The Garter I think. John I do think we can perhaps go into all this when we meet, I'll give you a ring when I get back next week."

The following week the phone went: It was the indomitable Ms Charles. Her diary it seemed was as full as ever but would I care to come next Wednesday?

"Yes I could and how had she enjoyed Italy?"

Wonderful but I had to remember that she was not the Queen. "I've got to fly to Germany fairly soon. I've got a booking pencilled in for next week, and then I've got this world cruise..."

Finally I am asked if I'm definitely coming next Wednesday which seems to be the one and only time that Ms Charles can fit me in.

She tells me that she is learning Italian and German. Show business can be a real bore at times and at every possible moment she brushes up her Italian.

Did she not feel that it might not be inconceivable for an Italian peasant, say, down in rural southern Italy when viewing the box genuinely to mistake her for the real Queen of England?

"Well let's talk about that next Wednesday."

Wednesday arrives all too quickly. I can't face it. I panic. I get my secretary to phone Uglies Enterprises, just one of the agencies who represent Ms Charles. I listen entranced on the extension. "So sorry but Mr Oliver will have to cancel Jeanette Charles' kind invitation to pay her

a visit today..." "We have a lot of other look-alikes" comes back the dulcet tones of an Uglies booker. "We have a Queen Mum and, just in, a Lady Di."

"A Lady Diana?" I break in, the news of the engagement to Prince Charles has only just broken. Some enterprising lady has been very smart and very quick. "Yes, Mr Oliver (how does she know it's me?) She's a very lovely girl called Diana. I wouldn't you know it? Goodman. Perhaps you would care to meet her, she's already been interviewed by NBC for the States and Thames which is due to go out on Monday."

"Really?" "Yes, we're looking for a look-alike for Prince Charles now, and Prince Philip—we can turn a few people into new people."

I am at a loss for what to say while I try to discern whether there is any innuendo implied. But there is no stopping this girl. She wants to send me a catalogue, I think about giving her a false name. Where should she send it, she asks me. But then I realize I can hardly give her a false name since she knows who I am. How, I ask myself, is she so sure when everyone else around her and in her catalogue does not seem so sure who they are. I put down the phone.

"All the world is a comic strip. And men and women merely look-alikes in it."

Oh boy. I make for the bathroom and try not to look in the mirror. I mean you just never know these days.

In any event I decide that's it. At least I've been spared something. I certainly would in no circumstances be paying a visit to Jeanette Charles: and as for Diana Goodman, if she was anything like the genuine article, well now there's a thought...

John Oliver



The not-the-Queen.

The right to rights inside the prison gates

A campaign starts today for prisoners' rights. It might at first seem just another bandwagon for those who think prisons should be more a bed of roses than a bed of nails. But the campaign is only indirectly concerned with conditions. Behind it is the belief that prisoners should not be cowed removed from the law and jurisdiction of this country. When the prison gates close, it is held, a prisoner should not lose the protection of the law along with his freedom.

A private member's Bill is published by Alfred Dubs, Labour MP for Wandsworth, Battersea South, with the aim, among other things, of making the Prison Act, 1952, and the Prison Rules under it enforceable by law.

Last year a prisoner who had been kept in a "special control unit" for troublemakers—now disbanded—tried unsuccessfully to sue the Home Office for false imprisonment. The judge found the Prison Rules had been breached but that the courts had no power to interfere: the rules were a matter for the Home Office. Critics saw the judgment as a licence for the Home Office to break the rules with impunity.

But in 1978 in a case brought against the Board of Visitors of Hull Prison by some prisoners backed by the National Council for Civil Liberties, the Court of Appeal held the Board must act according to the rules of natural justice. If it does not, the prisoner may apply to the courts for a judicial review.

"The rights of a citizen, however, circumscribed by a penal sentence or otherwise, must always be the concern of the courts unless their jurisdiction was clearly excluded some statutory provision Lord Justice Shaw said.

Other gains for prisoners' rights include the 1975 European Court of Human Rights ruling against the Government for refusing a prisoner access to a solicitor. And the European Commission of Human Rights is expected shortly to find the Government in breach of the human rights convention for censoring prisoners' mail and for refusing to allow prisoners to marry. Home Office rules have now been modified on both issues.

But none of this is enough to satisfy the Board of Visitors could at a future date he overruled by the Lords. The Prisoners' Rights Bill would not only make the Prison Rules enforceable by law but give prisoners a right to know the Prison Rules; have legal advice in confidence; be represented at disciplinary hearings; know their category (eg "A") and appeal against it; have greater freedom of correspondence and the right to vote.

It would also write into the same statute the protections in the Bill of Rights 1688 against cruel and unusual punishment and in the European Convention against torture, cruel or degrading treatment.

How much support it attracts depends on acceptance of the view that prisoners have not only privileges but also rights. But that in turn comes down to whether there should be a system within our system of justice which is a law unto itself.

Frances Gibb

View from Westminster

Monetary policy under fire

Whether the Select Committee Report on Monetary Policy has any immediate impact on policy now depends on the Cabinet and Tory backbenchers. The outline of the argument in the report is straightforward. The different schools of thought on monetarism are distinguished. The treatment by each school of the major questions in monetary policy are considered in the light of the evidence in support of them, and of the policy implications.

The report shows that tight money works primarily by damaging competitiveness since foreign exchange markets respond more quickly than do domestic wages and prices. The Government has chosen to tackle inflation in the United Kingdom by monetary policy alone. From Treasury simulations it appears that for each one per cent by which tightening money reduces the on-going rate of inflation, there is a loss of output of about 4 per cent of one year's national income, and unemployment for one year of 2½ per cent of the work force.

The loss is concentrated heavily in manufacturing industry. The effect to be expected from the Government's medium-term financial strategy, and now emerging, is a reduction of about 8 per cent in the on-going rate of inflation—but at the cost of losing £60 thousand million of output with 5m man-years of unemployment.

The difficulties encountered since July in controlling the money supply and implementing the strategy lie not in any technical failures in the Bank of England, but in inherent incompatibilities between monetary targets, competitive banking and freedom from foreign exchange control in an open economy, which cannot be remedied by monetary base control.

The committee has given more serious and sustained attention to monetary policy than has the Cabinet. There can be no question of disloyalty or weakness on the part of the Tory majority on the committee.

The Government may now decide to continue its medium-term financial strategy as originally conceived. The money supply targets have been well and truly breached, manufacturing industry has been made uncompetitive, and unemployment is causing great distress. Yet the Prime Minister says there is no alternative. The committee offers not just one alternative, but a range of alternatives, among which the policy that best reflects its own priorities on final objectives.

The Prime Minister exaggerates. She speaks of suicide between that and 2.5m unemployed, she chooses the latter. Given the Government's commitments and priorities, it would be reasonable for them now to accept cyclical variations in money supply as well as in public sector rates and take other supporting action to reduce the exchange rate, if necessary at the cost of money supply targets; and so to bring about some measure of reflation.

At the beginning of the inquiry, the committee sent a questionnaire to witnesses plainly drafted to draw out the debate which has been going on at a technical level.

Treasury ministers chose to respond with a superficial memorandum with not a single figure or statistic in reply to the detailed questions. The Bank of England and most other witnesses took the questionnaire more seriously, uncovering the grave doubts about the cost effectiveness and practicality of the Government's policy which emerge in the report. When eventually the Treasury did respond with a memorandum on the background of the Government's economic policy, it became apparent that they had no defence to offer.

From the beginning the committee had set the level of its work by seeking as advisers and witnesses the prime researchers and operators. Among the seven advisers who helped with the monetary policy inquiry, Professor Marcus Miller made the outstanding contribution to the analysis. However, in working with prime researchers it is necessary to draw them not only from different schools of thought, but also from the different disciplines needed: the economic theorist who offers descriptions of behaviour; the econometrician with the techniques to build and test models; that fit the data and test the theory; the economy watcher with his finger on the pulse; the policy designer who can put together the model and the current situation to produce a good policy reflecting the priorities of the policy maker; and the man who knows the institutions.

With the complexity of economic issues, the Treasury, National Institute and London Business Schools' models emerged as important tools to be used critically in designing and testing policies.

To rely on the accuracy of forecasts of a few aggregates to discriminate between models and theories is to accept a slow learning rate that may never catch up with changes in the economy and in the models. So uncritical are customers for forecasts in the press, and in industry and the City, that lack of testing makes markets rather vulnerable to fashions in economic thought.

The report is open to criticism, but it marks at least a start on a more disciplined design and testing of policy than has been customary in the fog-like atmosphere of British economic debate.

Jeremy Bray

The author is Labour MP for Metherwell and a member of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee.

Out, damned spot

Every magazine for teenagers carries pages of advertisements for acne lotions and skin clearing creams and gels, often worded to play on adolescents' shame and misery about their spots. The extent of that misery is shown by the amount of money schoolchildren are prepared to spend on these remedies—partly because the advice offered by their parents (and too often by their doctors) is that acne is normal and that they will grow out of it.

Certainly acne usually worsens from 14 to 17 years and then gets better; but a few young adults are left with permanent disfiguring scars and every adolescent with his or her first spots is naturally anxious to find a way of preventing the condition getting worse. More important for the individual victims is some hope of rapid improvement: they want clear skin next week, not next year.

Until recently the tide of patent remedies was evidence that medicine had very little to offer. Doctors looked wise and talked about avoiding chocolate and pork and advised fresh air and exercise, exposure of the skin to sunlight, and the use of ultraviolet lamps. They prescribed all manner of lotions and creams, mostly based on sulphur, resorcinol, and salicylic acid. When none of this well-intentioned treatment halted the progress of severe acne they sometimes resorted to the use of X-rays or some form of surgery.

Nowadays something better can be offered, especially in severe cases. Research has improved medical understanding of the causes of acne, and specific, effective treatments are at last available. In addition to the well-known hormonal influences and the overactivity of the skin glands that produce greasy sebum, two other factors are important: colonization of the skin with bacteria, especially *Propionibacterium acnes*, and the formation in the skin of chemicals that promote inflammation.

Modern treatment is based on reducing the overactivity of the skin glands, attacking the bacteria, and blocking or modifying the chemical processes that cause inflammation.

Unfortunately, treating acne has not become simple and straightforward overnight. The vigour of the treatment needs to be balanced against the severity of the skin disorder. The drugs needed for severe, chronic acne with deep-seated cysts in the skin have side effects making them unjustifiable for most patients; and many teenagers with mild acne will probably need no medical treatment at all.

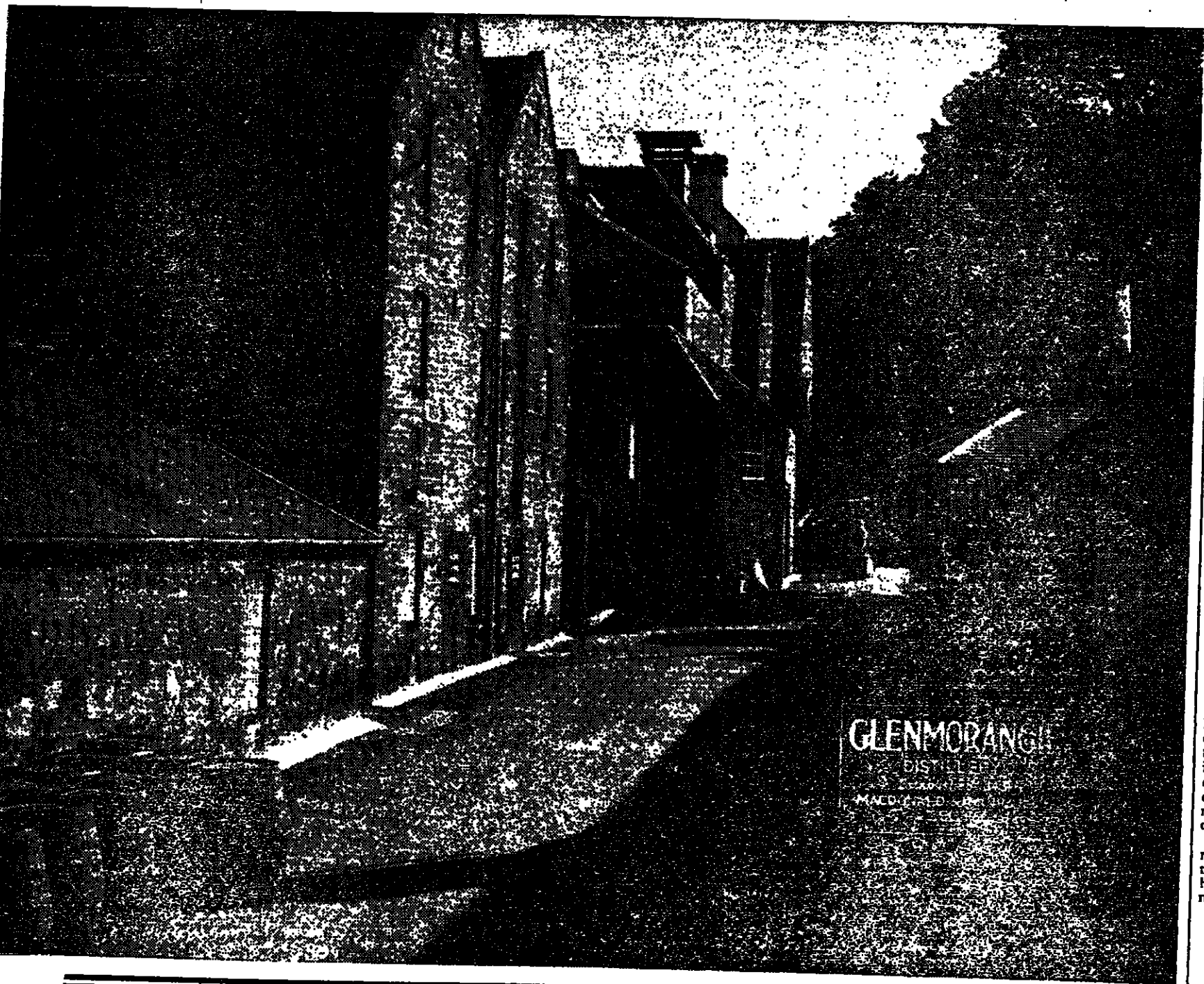
The simplest treatment is a lotion based on either benzoyl peroxide or retinoic acid. Both drugs cause inflammation of the skin, with reddening and scaling, but after a few weeks they halt the development of new spots and so reduce the overall severity of the skin damage.

More persistent acne is best treated by a combination of a lotion and antibiotics. Two to four tablets of tetracycline are taken daily for six months; repeated courses may need to be given. This combination will deal with 80 per cent of acne sufferers. The remainder will need treatment to reduce the amount of sebum formed in their skin glands. Treatment with oral contraceptives may be effective; or an antagonist to the androgen hormones may be used. The most effective drug, however, seems likely to be 13-cis-retinoic acid, a new variant of the retinoic acid found in many acne lotions.

The drug reduces by as much as 90 per cent the amount of sebum formed in the skin and changes its chemical composition, and within a few weeks the skin begins to clear. There are, however, side effects: the nose becomes dry and minor nosebleeds may be a problem, while the skin becomes inflamed and fragile. Treatment cannot be continued indefinitely, but the benefits persist for as long as 20 months after the drug is stopped. Research trials are still in progress, and 13-cis-retinoic acid is not yet available on prescription.

Dr Tony Smith

Medical Correspondent



This is where the world's finest
single malt comes from.

No single malt whisky is more
respected than Glenmorangie.
Produced since 1738 in a distillery

overlooking the Dornoch Firth, it remains today what it has always been.
Virtually unrivalled for taste. And, hardly surprisingly, in somewhat limited supply.
Since 1894, however, the subtle pleasures of Glenmorangie have been available on a more generous scale.
It is to be found in a blended whisky called Highland Queen.
Produced very slowly, using time-honoured, not to say old-fashioned methods, Highland Queen contains a very high proportion of malt whisky.
It is, in short, to ordinary blends what Glenmorangie is to ordinary single malts.



مكتبة الأص



The Rev Ian Paisley is not the only Irish politician who wants to know exactly what is going on in the Anglo-Irish studies initiated by Mrs Thatcher and Mr Haughey. In the Republic opposition leaders and some of Mr Haughey's own Fianna Fail party are jumpy about suggestions that Ireland's neutrality falls under the rubric of "the totality of relationships within these islands" which defines the scope of the studies. Nothing has been said that you can quite get hold of, but enough, coming from both sides, to alert suspicious minds. Tomorrow in the *Daily Mail* Haughey has an opportunity to explain.

Ireland's neutrality has been a fact of its life since the 1930s and has been a constant theme, you might say, in the furnace of others' war. The Irish-sounding phrase "neutrality" whose side are you neutral on? — is still pertinent. As the Irish government sees it, the Republic is not ideologically, only militarily neutral. It has not joined the ranks of the non-aligned states. It is to be numbered among the nations of the West and specifically of western Europe, but as a non-combatant (before combat anyway). Membership of the European Community, which is of high importance to Ireland, itself entails a political alignment, and it is freely conceded in Dublin that if the time comes when the EEC develops a defence dimension Ireland will have to go along with it. This distinguishes the Irish brand of neutrality from that of other European neutrals, Sweden, for example, considered joining the Community but decided that the political and possible defence implications of membership would not be compatible with her neutrality.

The Republic's role in international affairs and in the United

Nations especially is partly shaped by its position of neutrality. It enjoys a modest prominence on that stage which it would not have acquired by being a tail-end member of Nato. The Irish by and large bask in the status of being 'neutral'. It fortifies the feeling of independence. It perhaps saves something on defence expenditure; already swollen by the calls of external security. And nuclear weapons are likely some day to give the Republic's citizens a better chance of escaping the worst catastrophe of all.

These considerations, as well as a thread of ideological non-alignment found in the Irish Labour Party, contribute to the general sentiment in favour of neutrality and account for the disturbance on the surface of Irish political life that it appears to be called a question.

But of course the historical reason for Irish neutrality in relation to Britain and her alliances is that Ireland has not finally settled its score with its neighbour and will not have so long as the island is partitioned. What Mr Haughey's questioners want to know is whether neutrality is a counter to any possible deal concerning Irish unity.

Miss Seil de Valera, a member of the Dail and Mr Haughey's adjutant in the party coup that brought him to the top fifteen months ago, has indicated her approval for that possibility. The creation of a united Ireland, she said the other day, could lead to a reappraisal of Ireland's place in the defence of the West. When the Government was asked to give concrete form to her grandfather's wish in the summer of 1940 he rejected it. The Chamberlain Government tried very hard to get Seil de Valera to agree to British naval access to Irish ports and

common defence planning to repel a possible Nazi attack on Ireland in exchange for a British declaration in favour of Irish unity and the immediate establishment of a body to work out a new constitution. (All this without consulting Ulster.) De Valera said no—because he thought the Germans would win, the War Cabinet believed: because he did not trust Britain to deliver Ulster, Irish historians conclude. At any rate that piece of history suggests that Ireland will not alter its neutrality with Britain and has gained the essentials of national statehood.

Britain's interest in the matter is rather less acute. There is more than one opinion about the value of an Irish defensive alliance—as distinct from co-operation in internal security. The extra reach air and naval forces would get from access to the territory of the Republic remains an important factor in the defence of the western approaches—depending, however, on whether it is that sort of war for which precautions need to be taken. The soil of Northern Ireland anyway offers a partial substitute, as before.

Britain's other interest in this connexion is that Ireland should not come under hostile influence as a potential base for attack or subversion. That Cuban spectre would doubtless be best laid to rest by the evolution of a peacefully united Ireland in membership of Nato. But since the spectre disturbs nobody's sleep it is not likely to be given a seat at the Anglo-Irish conference table. Mrs Thatcher's dismissive reply when asked on leaving Northern Ireland last week if a defence agreement was on the agenda probably reflects a lack of urgency regarding the matter in London.

From Professor O. Hood Phillips, QC Sir, Lord Alport in his letter today (March 5) suggests that the United Kingdom Government should give an advisory opinion to the Government of Canada. I intends to repeal section 7 of the Statute of Westminster before the end of the parliamentary session. Such an amendment to the Statute of Westminster made by the United Kingdom Parliament, however, would be a breach of established and declared constitutional convention if it were enacted otherwise than at the request, and with the consent of both Houses of the Parliament of Canada. Section 7(2), extending section 2 to the Canadian Provinces and their legislatures, would need to be retained.

Yours faithfully,
O. HOOD PHILLIPS,
24 Heaton Drive,
Edgbaston, Birmingham.

From Mr Leslie Millin:
Sir, For those of us born in the United Kingdom but of Canadian citizenship, current developments regarding the Canadian Constitution are particularly painful. Conversations with intelligent, perceptive friends in the United Kingdom lead me to feel that many Britons do not fully appreciate the probable consequences of any move in Westminster, however well-intended, to block or alter whatever request is put forward by the Parliament of Canada.

No useful purpose will be served by tampering with what is set forward. For better or worse the Parliament of Canada is just that: the legally elected body speaking for all Canadians. Of course there are differences of opinion, strongly held; but Canada is a representative democracy, not a participatory democracy, a fact that those in Westminster would do well to

Anything other than speedy pas-

for Canada

sage of the Canadian request will result only in creating even deeper divisions in Canadian society, and prejudicial relations between the two countries. You may rely upon it that delays or amendments in the United Kingdom will be seized upon by extremist elements in Quebec as proof that they were right, and the electorate wrong when the separatist plea was rejected in that province. The anti-monarchist movement would be strengthened in the country as a whole. What conceivable benefit is there to either country in that?

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE MILLIN
Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, W.1
March 5.

Effect of charges on

From the Secretary General of the Royal Town Planning Institute and others

Since the proposed introduction of charges for planning applications as a new source of local government revenue was opposed by bodies representing the professions, industry, and community groups on the principle that the planning system exists for the benefit of the community as a whole rather than the applicant.

Doubts were also expressed about whether it was possible to devise a scheme of charges which would be both cost-effective and equitable. Despite this opposition the proposal was incorporated in the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980.

From Mr. Tom McNally, MP for Stockport, South (Labour)
Sir, I have a growing foreboding that the British Parliament is going

to make a complete ass of themselves in the eyes of the Canadian Constitution. Indeed, I have already heard a colleague with impeccable radical credentials talking in all sorts of terms of the "unholy alliance" of the Imperial Parliament."

As the Labour Party knows to its cost, politicians find a good constitutional principle a very easy thing to say. I sincerely believe we would do grave damage to relations with Canada if the British Parliament started deluding itself that it could establish a precedent by acquiescing to a legitimate request for cooperation from a sister sovereign parliament. To do otherwise would be to let the British on a road fraught with dangers.

If the Canadian people object to what Canadian legislators do on the subject of the Empire, let them have their say in a general election. That is their right and we should not usurp it.

—TOM MCNALLY,
House of Commons.

From the Secretary General of the Royal Town Planning Institute and others.

Sir, The proposed introduction of charges for planning applications as a new source of local government revenue was opposed by bodies representing the professions, industry, and community groups on the principle that the planning system exists for the benefit of the community as a whole rather than the applicant.

Doubts were also expressed about whether it was possible to devise a scheme of charges which would be both cost-effective and equitable. In spite of the reservations the proposal was incorporated in the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1950.

Regulations setting out the scheme of fees to be charged have now been laid before Parliament and, if confirmed by the House of Lords, by March 8 will come into

We recognize the attempt made in the regulations to: devise a practical and equitable scheme of charges; nevertheless, the regulations confirm our fears about the inherent defects of any charging scheme.

The scheme is unlikely to be cost-effective and will have only marginal relevance to local government finance. The assessment and collection of fees will make additional charges on users at a time when the Secretary of State is encouraging local authorities to make more productive use of manpower, will divert professional staff from their rating department and will add to the time taken to process applications.

Criticism of the financial return cannot be simply by increasing the proposed charges to raise additional revenue. Apart from problems of evasion, enforcement and attendant costs which could make the scheme unworkable, it would become a new financial burden on

applicants and on development without any practicable means of distinguishing charities and other deserving cases.

Whatever the level of charges, it will always be difficult to strike a balance between the different categories of development which will command general acceptance.

The interpretation and implementation of the regulations also raise certain important practical problems and the serious and continuing difficulties which followed the introduction of building restriction charges only a year ago afford a

Notwithstanding the considerable efforts made to devise a workable scheme, we therefore believe that the House of Lords would be well advised not to improve the regulations because of the inherent difficulty of this or, indeed, of any other charging scheme, in reconciling cost-effectiveness, simplicity, equity and due observance of the law.

Yours faithfully,
 D. W. HARRISON, Secretary General,
 The Royal Town Planning Institute.
 NICHOLAS HINTON, Director,
 National Council for Voluntary
 Organisations.
 PHILIP TAYLOR, Director, Compa-
 ny Affairs, Confederation of
 British Industries.
 P. K. HARRISON, Secretary, The
 Royal Institute of British Architects.
 PETER PURTON, Chairman,
 The Law Society's Planning Law
 and Land Development Committee.
 ROGER HUMBER, Director,
 The House Builders Federation.
 KENNETH COOPER, Director
 General,
 National Federation of Building
 Employers.
 BARNEY HOLBECH, Secretary,
 Parliamentary Society,
 National Farmers' Union.
 The Royal Town Planning Institute,
 26 Portland Place, W.1.
 March 13.

The Polish authorities seem to be losing their patience. They have chosen an extraordinarily bad moment to revive harassment of dissidents and members of Solidarity. They are endangering their fragile understanding with the unions. They are risking a new wave of strikes. They are weakening their case with western governments and bankers, who could well have second thoughts about pumping still more money into Poland. If the Polish government seems intent on blowing the place up.

When General Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, asked for three months of industrial peace from February 12 he said he would use the time to engage in the broadest possible dialogue with the unions. He was offering a sort of bargain, though he did not put it that way. He was saying that, if the unions would hold off, the government would work in good faith to reach new agreements with them. The unions have kept their side of the bargain. They have called no strikes and have been largely successful in holding down constantly simmering pressure for wildcat strikes. On one level the government has also kept its side of the bargain by continuing to negotiate.

On another level something else is now happening. Mr Jacek Kuron, of the social self-defence committee KOR, has been taken into custody for a few hours and

warned that the long-standing investigation against him is being broadened to include the possibility of more serious charges. The nationalist group around Mr Moculski, who has been in prison for some time, has been formally charged with attempting the violent overthrow of the system. A well-known reformer has been expelled from the party. And several members of Solidarity have been sacked from jobs in the.

Probably the Polish party leaders were pushed towards these moves during the party congress in Moscow last week. The communiqué indicates that there was some frank speaking. It is also possible, however, that some people in the Polish apparatus took their cue straight from Moscow without waiting to consult the Prime Minister. If so, they are moving on a very shaky ground. The leaders of Solidarity are extremely sensitive to any sign that the security apparatus is being unleashed against them. They know that if they allow the process to start it will eventually reach them. This is why they have to take some notice of the attitude of Mr Moculski although they think his demand for Polish independence is dangerous and irresponsible.

Mr Karon is in another category. He is a member of Solidarity and close to Mr Lech Walesa, its leader. To put him on trial would be a direct chal-

ledge to Mr. Walesa. It would also be extraordinarily foolish because whatever anyone thinks of his ideas he has been using his influence to moderate demands and discourage strikes, even to the extent of being called a traitor by angry students. This points to the most immediate danger now facing Poland, which is not that the Russians will suddenly invade but that the Russians, with which the present leadership has been handling the situation with falter because of internal disagreements and rash moves by rivals for power. Then things could fall apart quickly, for there really is no alternative to the present policy of compromise. Poland has passed a point of no return and entered a new era. There is only one way the regime can retain authority and that is by earning through economic reforms the support of the present warring consensus. The old methods cannot be revived without inviting disaster and frightening away the foreign money which Poland so badly needs. As Professor Richard Portes put it in his study of Polish indebtedness for the Royal Institute of International Affairs: "Re-scheduling the debt offers the real promise only if the party in attendance, with the Church in attendance, can reach a more or less explicit accord on a serious economic and political stabilization programme."

From Mr. K. H. Price
Sir, Your Economics Editor writes (March 6) about the L-shape slump, under a heading similar to that of the "Economic Outlook" column of the February issue of *Chief Executive*. I was not entirely unassociated with the preparation of the latter article. In the course of writing it, at the beginning of the year, I wondered whether we were seeing not an L-cycle but rather a side view of a dimly-lit flight of stairs. This was excessively cynical; so roo, having declared my own culpability, is

Assuming no violent change in the government's fiscal policy in the Budget we will very shortly have evidence of the beginning of rather slow growth of output. The initial engine of this hesitant upturn will be the end of destocking in much of industry, mildly supported by higher consumer spending, itself partly sustained by a lower personal savings ratio.

The lower pound (or still lower) combined with less irresponsible wage settlements will improve both net exports and profitability. The latter will help to restore business confidence, and so investment

intensions, and so we shall have not an L- but a U-cycle, very weak but still positive. Let Mr Blake remember this in, say, nine months' time, when the evidence of what is actually beginning to happen now will be much plainer.

What matters, of course, is whether this is good enough. David Blake rightly addresses himself in this article to the balance of prior and posterior probabilities of growth. It is possible to agree with much of his analysis; and indeed with his conclusion.

Good, healthy companies have been forced to take out soundly-

based capacity because of their chronic lack of competitiveness in a depressed world market. Much of this lack of competitiveness has resulted directly from government policies. The latter have aimed at a sufficient level of inflation, but have achieved much more rapidly than the Government expected. But the price has been a heavy one. So yes, now is the time to re-examine priorities. But 12 months ago would have been a much better time.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. PRICE.

Kingscot, The Parade, Monmouth.
March 5.

From Lord Duncan-Sandys, CH, and others

Sir, While all new building construction is exempt from value-added tax, restoration and rehabilitation work has to bear the tax at 15 percent.

This appreciably increases the heavy cost of repair of cathedrals, churches and historic houses, which are among our greatest cultural assets and tourist attractions. Likewise, the real value of government grants for the restoration of historic towns and the improvement of ordinary housing is correspondingly reduced. Delayed maintenance can only result in much greater expenditure in years to come.

The freeing of restoration and rehabilitation from VAT would be entirely in line with joint recommendations made recently by

the British Government and the governments of other member-states of the Council of Europe that the restoration and modernization of old buildings should be given assistance comparable to that accorded to new construction.

We therefore earnestly urge that this unfair and damaging burden should be removed and their fate altered and encourage the proper care and maintenance of our irreplaceable architectural heritage.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED CLEVELAND
GERALD LONDON
DEBBIE MAN
JOHN MURPHY
HENRY MARKING
MONTAGUE
ERIAN ROSS
JOHN COLLINS
CHAMON

GEORGE HOWARD
DIANA REWARD
WILLIAM WILSON
HOWE BOLAN
ROBERT HARRISMAN
GRAFFIN
JAMES BERNARD
ROLAND WADE
NICHOLAS SPENCER

17 Carleton House Terrace, SW1.
March 8.

Time runs out for the Howe strategy

Nobody need be surprised that on Saturday a few television vans and a cohort of newspaper cameramen, happened to be passing through the Surrey village of Blechingley when the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Sir Geoffrey Howe were seen strolling along. It was as if their habit, in the bar of the old White Hart Inn. They ordered ale and lager, and were caught on film standing in front of a menu listing puddings such as Cabins Pudding. Sir Geoffrey's lips were sealed, of course, except to ask where and how often the photographers wanted him. At the level for budget-There is no need for self-reflection. As Sir Geoffrey dismissed his ale with a fine show of untroubled mind, he must have known that the hopes of the Conservatives and the Conservative Party in the next general election are riding on the Budget he will open in the Commons tomorrow.

It is his third Budget, and in an electoral year, it is not likely to prove decisive. Hardly anybody in politics believes that the Government could win a new lease of power in circumstances of rising unemployment, rising inflation and bankruptcies, high interest rates, an over-valued pound, falling production, non-growth, and all the rest of a bleak economic story.

This is an electoral, not an economic theme. If one had to say what the Conservative Party won the general election in May, 1979, the answer would have to be that workers and their wives deserted Labour in droves to join the bedrock Tories. Their reasons were no doubt complex. They had, for example, to be told that the Labour government and trade unions, in a public

private sector, publicly carried by the State, must have no incidence on private ownership. In controls against inflation, in money, they continually sacrifice its value. They were ready for change and to take a chance and Mr. Thatcher offered both.

The Labour Party must have those who would stand up for those or their voting conversion of May, 1979. They are presumably on their backs again to the Labour Party, of selling opinion polls that they will lose. The Conservative-Liberal alliance, the Social Democrat-Liberal alliance, lost the loss of the Conservative Party's 1979 converts is not all. No more, the core of the Conservative Party has been broken. Indeed, the small businessmen, large and small begin to feel the pinch of monetarist policies, and the squeals of the CBI and small businessmen drown the whinnies of the Tories.

At the next election, at the next electoral point in saying, and Conservative politicians can say, that there is a world wide recession from which Britain cannot stand immune, or that if it takes enough time then everything would come right. The fact is that after nearly two years of Thatcherism voters now expect to see results, and his first Budget, has few results to show other than a falling inflation rate that should be expected in a time of recession.

Conservatism, even within the Conservative Party, the conclusion I would draw is that the prescription has not worked, and that there is now not enough time for it to work in being used for saving marginal or average voters when the general election comes.

Ominously, as Mrs. Thatcher will see the first to note, there is a general revival of the call for the Government to assume responsibility for industry and business, for the creation of jobs, for increasing productivity. Peter Toke, Minister of Industry, and the inefficient Paul Reiffen and the interventionists are again the political watchwords. The CBI and the TUC are nearly at one. Some conservative backbenchers are scarcely distinguishable from Labour backbenchers. The electoral campaign that produced Mrs. Thatcher's victory in 1979 was fast. It is plain that Mrs. Thatcher herself, or her Chancellor,

could not renounce the principle of state withdrawal from industry and business decisions that lay at the heart of the 1979 economic strategy.

For the Government, then, unless the Chancellor does the trick of convincing the commonsense majority to run out for conservative politicians who hope and pray that within two years, without any fudging over North Sea revenues or ERM, Mrs Thatcher's Labus will be the Government.

Meanwhile, what is the issue? Opposition's challenge to the Government? Within two, or three years time nobody may be sure of the second election, but the Conservative Democrats and their pro-people alliances with the Liberals will prove to be. Some seats may be lost here and there by the Labour and Conservative Parties, although the Government will retain its majority. Constituencies boundaries could turn out to be more disturbing. The leadership election, though, will be a disaster for the Government. Mr Michael Foot is certainly fortunate to feel that he has been very fortunate in the timing of his election. He has no doubt that he will respect. A political romanticism like him, not to say an out-dated non-conformist temper, could scarcely have superimposed upon events a selection of electoral constituencies that is so full of sniffs and limitations.

He has three marvelously worthy subjects that he can hammer on: every platform he visits from now until the day of the election, he will hammer the issue of the EEC into Britain's core socialist, and nuclear disarmament. Sound Conservative logic accepts that these are, and will continue to be, profoundly emotional political issues, and that they will be pounded at and well practised in, and consequently they are difficult to handle simple and rationally at election time. The emotion aroused by one may easily be made to run over into another, and Mr Foot will need no teaching how to do so.

So Sir Geoffrey Howe carries a very large responsibility tomorrow. The Government's fate may be in his hands.

From Mr Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative)

Sir, Geoffrey Smith is certainly right to say [article, February 27] that our post-war failures stem from a mix of economic and political conditions which is unique and which includes unusually powerful trade unions, an exceptionally large public sector and a weakness in social cohesion and political authority.

He might also have mentioned the contribution of Britain's media to the undermining of that authority and the baneful effects of the increasingly dominant position in the party of alternative government enjoyed by a handful of union oligarchs. Foreign observers, seduced to believe that democracy

And are there not other carriers and agents of the British disease, who can cause special damage to Conservative governments — the "organisations" which might belong to the Reform or the Athenæum and buy their shirts in Jermy Street and who are found in Whitehall, the public institutions, in County Hall and the National Health Service? They are urbane and experienced and, as a rule, deeply cynical and negative.

Worst of all, they fail to accomplish many of the tasks set them by their disdain as their "political masters." Growth in the money supply is not too rapid, but the outlaying costs are made to bring minimum relief to the public purse and maximum political harm, the

Government is led into a damaging, and totally unlooked-for confrontation with the miners and is cleverly resisted in its efforts to reduce the State's role in the national economy.

In his conclusion, Mr Smith drew a lesson from the 1974-5 miners' strike. He said that the Government had been wrong and what is electrically advantageous and suggested that in recent years politicians of all parties had favoured the latter. Insofar as this juxtaposition is valid, in the context of the present debate, it is the Prime Minister less guilty of the charge of courting electoral popularity than Margaret Thatcher. It is indeed much of the pressure on her to show how to do precisely that and to be seen to be doing it, that explains why she has been so often "walked down" where we have "walked up". Social Democrats, with the support of many of the "safe" men-

Surrender to such pressure would entail the abandonment of the main thrust of the Government's original strategy and would indeed justify an accusation of sacrificing the public good. An over-expansionary policy would nullify the sacrifices made so far.

There are a number of signs that at the end of the recession is in sight, but there is also a real danger of resurgence of an even more serious inflation over the next year or two. We should then be able to turn firmly back on that old circuitous track described by Geoffrey Smith—with the difference that we should be heading still more resolutely towards the goal.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN WHITELEY,
House of Commons.

From Mr Brian Craxie.

Sir, The danger of Soviet imperialism has been spelt out recently in unambiguous terms by President Reagan, his Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, and Mrs Margaret Thatcher. At this time of disaster, when the South African people are fighting a noble and principled fight against foreign policy which is neither 'a course of action is likely to advance or impede Soviet aims'.

With these thoughts in mind, it is disappointing to learn that Brian's advice to the Government was that the recent summit talks in Washington, was to put pressure on South Africa to accept the United Nations plan for elections in Namibia, even though elections in Namibia, as everyone would almost certainly bring Swaps, the rebel group, to power. In support of this thesis it was argued that a different course was likely to lead to further destabilisation and in the end still bring Swaps, by then much more powerful, to power.

The logic of this argument is elusive. It amounts to saying that to frustrate Soviet aims, we must help to bring Swaps, already a Soviet instrument, to power; fail to bring Swaps to power, and we are hostile than it already is. Similarly, Neville Chamberlain argued that to prevent Hitler becoming 'really dangerous', we had better 'hand him Czechoslovakia'.

What, in fact, are the Soviet objectives in southern Africa? They may be summed up briefly as follows:

1. Bring Swaps to power in South Africa, thus completing the isolation of South Africa.
2. Gain control of the important Saldanha harbour of Walvis Bay, which is South African sovereign territory, but can easily be made unusable if Namibia were in Marxist hands.
3. In due course, mount terrorist operations against South Africa from bases in Namibia, and in time to come, against the white Mughals (the inevitable welcome Soviet diplomatics).
4. In the long term, gain control over the mineral resources of South Africa.

There would be other, by no means negligible, side-benefits to the Soviets from allowing Swaps to come to power. Life would be made much easier for the leaders of the anti-Marxist guerrillas in southern Angola, Swazini, who has scored

inspiring successes against the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) regime, backed by Cuba and East Germany.

The policy advocated by the British in southern Africa is indeed the exact opposite of that which would serve the long-term interests of this country and the West. Priority ought to be given to supporting Sambisa and the FLNA (Angola National Liberation Front) guerrillas in northern Angola, with the objective of destroying the Cuban and East German surrogate position in that country and elsewhere in Africa. A side-benefit would be to make life difficult not for Sambisa (who is on our side), but for South Africa of Swapo (who is on the other camp).

It is argued in support of the current British line that unless the South Africans go along with the UN plan, incidentally endangering their own security, the UN will decree mandatory sanctions, and if we do not join in, we shall lose those dazzling contracts with Nigeria. Well, perhaps we shall, and again perhaps we shall not. Nigeria needs Britain as much as we need Nigeria, and that country will not allow its oil business and others, does it not like to trade with South Africa.

What is certain, however, is that if we allow the Soviets to gain control over South Africa's strategic oil reserves, the UN will decree sanctions which will cause our contracts with oil to be of much interest for the survival of the West will be at risk.

As for the argument that once in power, Swapo can be made to be as good as we want it to be, I can hardly suppose that it is meant to be taken seriously. In the real world, that is not the kind of thing that happens: Sadat and Siad Barre are exceptions to a general rule. To back a friend rather than their enemies is a sound principle.

Sir, in the unfortunate period of American history now happily ended, the need for solidarity with the underdog was replaced by justice support for the weak, policies of the Carter Administration. An excellent principle. But there has been a change of team in Washington. By the same token, we should back the tougher line of the new team.

Yours very truly,
BRIAN CROZER,
112 Bridge Lane,
Malden, Surrey, NW11
March 3, 1976

From Miss Harriet Hurman.

Sir, If the Contempt of Court Bill reaches the statute book in its present form, leaked newspaper news will add to the risk of offending Scrubs and programmes like Yorkshire Television's "The Secret Horse-tribunal" might not be possible.

The Bill adds a dangerous new dimension to the risk of offending its reach to all inferior courts and tribunals which . . . exercise any part of the judicial power of the State . . .

It was only by bit, during August, 1979, that news began to leak into the papers that many prisoners in Wormwood Scrubs had been badly injured by a MUFTI (Ministry Use of Force Tactical Unit) of riot police. The Home Office volunteered no information and a prison visitor was sacked for speaking out. Eventually the full story emerged and the public learnt, for the first time, that a specially trained mobile MUFTI squad.

If the Contempt Bill had been law the facts might never have emerged. For inevitably after a disturbance, prisoners are charged and appear before the prison board. This happened after the riot at Wormwood Scrubs. The board of visitors is clearly exercising judicial power.

Lord Justice Waller said in the

Full Board of Visitors case that when "dealing with disciplinary matters the duties of the board were judicial." So newspapers would be muzzled until the long sessions of boards of visitors' hearings had been completed. The editors of the press would be fraught with uncertainty. How would they and out whether prisoners had been charged or whether all the adjudication had been completed? They certainly could not rely on the House Office to volunteer the information.

The Bill could also affect discussion of recent hospital's Yorkshire television's documentary "The secret hospital", no doubt raised questions which touched on cases of patients about to appear before boards of health review tribunals. (Investigators were working by nursing staff could have been the subject of internal disciplinary proceedings.

At best, the Bill would have a more chilling effect, at worst it could have a disastrous one. We know very little about what goes on in our prisons and mental hospitals. The Government's Contempt Bill could see to it that in future we know even less.

MARRIET HARMAN,
Member of the Department of Health
Parliamentary Council for
Civil Liberties,
36 King's Cross Road, W.C1

From Mr Louis Allen.

Mr. David Watts's interesting piece March 3 on the Singapore war-crimes trial is a masterpiece. In 1942 says that the Sengapore Development Corporation has been trying to find a photograph of General Percival showing his expression and attitude at the time he was taken from General Yamaguchi's "lush" to spare General Percival's "luses".

This is, of course, nonsense. The Corporation cannot have looked for the. The event was one of the photographed and drawn and maintained much of the entire war, there are countless Japanese reproductions of it. Your own, incidentally, doesn't show General Percival at all, but one of his escort; nor is this person "marching to the surrender ceremony with General Percival's "lush". The Japanese officers in the Japanese Sogita who sell these

Tokyo and recalls the occasion very well. There is one particular pictorial record of it in some detail in a printed collection of shots from Japanese newsreels, in the book *Nippon Eigojoshi* (A History of Japan in English and Japanese), published in 1977 by Meimichi Shimbunsha.

It won't do; incidentally, though Percival was given an almost impossible task, he suggests the idea of a museum might prompt wider knowledge of this role" since he took command in Singapore only months before the Japanese invasion". In fact, in 1937, Percival was GSOI- on General Dobie's staff in London, and prepared a detailed pamphlet showing the defence problems and seeds which were quite perceptible; so he knew very well what the issues were. Simply, knowledge wasn't enough.

Yours sincerely,
LOUIS ALLEN
Quintus Cottage,
Dunbar.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

هكذا في الأصل

Consultancy in the recession

Martin Vandersteen, this year's chairman of the Management Consultants Association, reckons that the nature of the business has changed substantially since he came into it 20 years ago.

Time was when the management consultant was a creature from a strange planet, thinking in a language quite different to that of the earth-bound industrialists and traders who employed his services when driven to it by dire necessity. Now, he says, clients are quite likely to use their management consultants as a pool of labour, highly trained but basically complementary to their existing staff, on which they can draw when the pressure is on.

That, he thinks, reflects the fact that clients have become very much more sophisticated in their approach, so that they now employ internally the sort of techniques that were peculiar to the management consultant 20 years ago. And, because companies are now reluctant to employ staff to cope with peak periods when it might be difficult and/or expensive to shed them when demand declines, it is a trend he can see accelerating.

Not that the old-style, trouble-shooting consultant has passed into oblivion. On the contrary, he is almost as much in demand as ever, though the nature of his client has changed. According to members of the Management Consultants Association, demand has held up surprisingly well over the past year, and while the number of consultants may have declined slightly—by perhaps 5 per cent, according to Mr Vandersteen—this is largely a result of under-recruiting. Certainly, he says, there has been nothing remotely like the shakeout of 1972.

The worst of the downturn has been overseas, reflecting the impact of a stronger pound. In the United Kingdom, of course, demand from manufacturing industry is in some respects well down, because attempts to improve production



Mr Martin Vandersteen, chairman of the Management Consultants Association; providing a highly trained pool of labour.

and marketing have been postponed, and large-scale construction projects that might otherwise have required appraisal have simply been shelved.

As against this, however, there is if anything a stronger demand for consultancy on ways to improve efficiency and cash flow, and data processing work is "resource bound"—that is there simply are not enough trained consultants to undertake the work on offer. Faced with rapidly deteriorating conditions, British management seems to have been converted wholesale to the view that more rapid access to more information cannot be hindered and might help.

Demand for consultancy services from the few relatively healthy sectors of the British economy—oil and gas, the financial sector, and distribution and retailing—is holding up well.

Demand from central government is down, but from local government, curiously enough, it is well up—well up because the local authorities are desperate for methods of improving their financial controls, and of

proving to their ratepayers that they are providing value for money.

So one way and another the management consultants seem to be coming through the recession in reasonable shape.

All of which is well enough for the consultants, but what about British industry? Mr Vandersteen admits that consultancy is a "maturing profession", no longer in a phase of rampant growth.

Within his own firm, some 60 per cent of work comes from clients whom the firm has served before, and another 20 per cent from companies to which employees of Arthur Andersen itself, or of one of its previous clients have moved. That can be taken as evidence that Arthur Andersen has many satisfied clients. It can also be taken as evidence that the firm is selling to the converted.

Likewise, the fact that members of the Management Consultants Association have had 95 of *The Times* top 100 companies among their clients may be impressive, but it raises a

great many questions about the smaller companies that either never have used consultants at all or have used them and come away disillusioned by the experience.

It is partly with a view to assisting such potential clients that the Management Consultants Association has this year produced its first directory of member firms and their services to clients. This is large, highly informative, and available free from the MCA.

In addition to an introductory section on client-consultant relations—covering such things as the association's code of professional practice, and some sensible advice on selecting a consultant—it has a section describing the scope of members' services in general, and another giving a general description of each member firm (tends to be very dry and gives some idea of size and age), a list of the activities it undertakes (full and useful), and a selection of "illustrative engagements".

Of course there are also

addresses, telephone numbers, the names of key personnel and an indication of the firm's overseas connections. Anyone looking for a consultancy firm should be able to get a good idea of which firms are likely to be interested and interesting from this (failing which the association's executive director will point them in the direction of three or four of them).

One problem, of course, is that not every reputable consultancy firm is a member of the MCA (so far there are 23, and the ranks are swelling by about two a year). The membership qualifications are pretty ferocious (members must have been in practice for at least five years in the United Kingdom; the partners or directors must have had at least ten years' experience; the average length of service with the firm of the whole consulting staff must be at least three years, and at least 25 per cent of the staff must have served with the same firm for five years; and so on).

For this Mr Vandersteen apologizes not at all. It may deter the young hopefuls but it also keeps out the fly-by-nights; and the association's executive director runs an annual check to see that members continue to conform.

Given that it is the only association of established member firms representing rural communities, about the future of the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (CSIRA).

It is now 20 months since the Government commissioned, and over 12 months since it received the report of a review by civil servants of the work of the Development Commission and its subsidiary CSIRA. This report has not been published, nor has there been any public consultation on the subject. Now, however, there is a strong feeling that CSIRA should be merged into a larger unit, serving small businesses in both urban and rural areas, under the auspices not of the Development Commission and the Department of the Environment, but of the Department of Industry.

We quite understand that urban areas may need a service not unlike that which CSIRA has so effectively given to the countryside. But we are extremely concerned that CSIRA's specialist knowledge

From the Master of Churchill College, Cambridge

Sir, This is the moment to press government, industry and commerce to use coal instead of oil and gas. There are many reasons—coal is cheaper than oil or gas per therm of heating value, we have plenty of it and so does the world, it is easier and more rewarding to export our oil (and gas) than our coal, alternatively such a policy permits us, if we wish, to reduce the rate of depletion of our oil and gas reserves.

But the most important reason stems from the conclusion of the World Energy Conference and many other bodies including our Department of Energy, which can be summed up in the statement that the world supply of petroleum will never again exceed that of 1973. Whether this is literally true or not, the peak of petroleum and natural gas production and its decline are clearly visible.

The Department of Energy has been dutifully trying to signal this fact to consumers by

its pricing policy, and no doubt hoping that industry and others will conserve energy and switch to coal in plenty of time so that their future prosperity will not be prejudiced by energy problems.

Many of us need to wipe the cobwebs off our picture of the coal stakehold, because modern methods make it possible to burn coal cleanly and with little labour. The drawbacks to the rapid substitution of coal for oil and gas appear to be lack of cash for the conversion of equipment and uncertainty about future back periods are encouraging although not dramatic.

Government should look again at the possibility of giving financial help towards substitution, without having the taxpayer excessively reward those who will save money by switching to coal. The chemical industry and others who are complaining of competition from countries whose governments have an ostrich-like atti-

tude to energy prices, or priding themselves, should be expected to adapt to energy costs.

Uncertainty might lessen if the Government itself gave a lead. Just as Property Services Agency the DBSS showed what can be done in energy conservation, they should now be able to give a similar lead in use of coal. Local authorities should also be advised to encourage others. To a major task of the coal industry, but gas and oil supply might be more flexible in attitude to the provision of emergency supplies.

Government energy policy based on conservation, and nuclear. It is time it be to promote the use of much more seriously. Yours faithfully, R. H. W. THORNE, Churchill College, Cambridge CB3 0DS. March 4.

Rural small industries

From Mr Michael Dower

Sir, I am writing to express the concern of the elected members of the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (CSIRA).

It is now 20 months since the Government commissioned, and over 12 months since it received the report of a review by civil servants of the work of the Development Commission and its subsidiary CSIRA. This report has not been published, nor has there been any public consultation on the subject.

Now, however, there is a strong feeling that CSIRA should be merged into a larger unit, serving small businesses in both urban and rural areas, under the auspices not of the Development Commission and the Department of the Environment, but of the Department of Industry.

We quite understand that urban areas may need a service not unlike that which CSIRA has so effectively given to the countryside. But we are extremely concerned that CSIRA's specialist knowledge

The 'unfair' company car perk

From Mr R. T. W. Rumsey

Sir, A heading on the Management page of your Business section (March 2) reads "Is fair the comp car?"

In truth it is completely fair. How it ever came to be viewed as a perk complete baffles me. The provision of a company car, with its insurance and maintenance has always been seen as part of the salary of the person to whom the vehicle has been allocated. It is a cash part of his salary adjusted accordingly.

By fostering the provision of the company car never taken into consideration when assessing the employee pension and as a result a "unfortunate" "enjoying" benefit of this so-called perk has the retirement his pens will be much less than he would have enjoyed had he received a salary which would have allowed him to provide his own vehicle together with the associated running costs.

By fostering the principle providing a vehicle and attaching to this a curious status, majority of the employees Britain effectively reduce their pension fund commitment most certainly reduce the standard of living of their retired employees. Ironically, the reduced pension falls upon the employees who, during their working life, were deemed to be of sufficient standing within company to merit the use of a company vehicle. In old words, those that get the company best can expect to end with only a limited recognition of their services. Yours faithfully, R. T. W. RUMSEY, Eyecottwood Cottage, Rendcomb, Gloucestershire, March 3.

Micro-chip to make the beds and darn socks

From Mr A. F. Bromige

Sir, Iain Murray, in his article "Gadgets without fear" (March 2), says that the micro-chip revolution promises to banish for ever the drudgery of domestic life and he seems surprised that a sample of housewives experienced some anxiety at being confronted with and being expected to operate a Prestel receiver, a home computer, a video-cassette recorder and a microwave oven.

It is not clear to this household operative how any of these gadgets reduce in the slightest, let alone banish, what some call drudgery. If the housewife could use some use in any of the four articles she was confronted with she would have been able to operate them as well as she can operate her cooker, washing machine or sewing machine.

If the manufacturer can design a micro-chip to make the beds and to rake out the dead ashes of the fire in the morning, to clean the windows and darn the socks, to cut the sandwiches for the children's lunch and to make the cake and to walk the vacuum cleaner over all the floors, then he will be on a winner; and Mr Murray, and the advertising agencies he mentions, will find the housewife will learn to operate this wonder-machine in a flash. Until then, she is wise to ignore the gadget society that we seem to be becoming.

Yours faithfully, A. F. BROMIGE, West Holme, The Ridgeway, Friston, East Sussex BN20 0EZ.

From Mrs Ann Brooke
Sir, I shall ever feel in Mr Iain Murray's debt for his article on "Gadgets without fear" in today's (March 2) *Business News*, as I now know that I am not the only woman who suffers from "technofear".

Not only do I labour under this handicap, but I also cannot appreciate the need for the ever increasing complexity and multiplicity of functions of some of our household appliances.

I seem to recall that we welcomed the earlier models of clothes and dishwashing machines and of tumble driers because these had few programmes and no symbols. I wonder whether manufacturers appreciate that many women like to feel "in control" of their machines and like to adapt their functions to the family's needs and routines.

The advantage of a washing machine is that clothes can be soon back in use, but its advantage is reduced if one has to wait days to collect sufficient articles for a particular programme.

I have two electronic "marvels" in my kitchen: a microwave oven and a tumbler dryer—on which the symbols are so unintelligible that I need to have the meanings stuck to adjoining cupboards. Perhaps a man's symbol is a woman's mystery.

The tumbler dryer is a great improvement on my old one, it is much larger and is permanently vented to outside the house. However, it has a multiplicity of programmes (I think, eleven) of which I only use two: the "normal" programme and for manmade fibres. For the latter I have a choice as to whether or not I wish to iron my shirts and bed linen—surely most of us do?

Similarly, I am puzzled by another programme. This blows cold air as from a blower, smells—can any really remain after a machine wash? I hope these comments will help manufacturers increase their understanding of housewives' needs.

Yours faithfully, ANN BROOKE, 13 Central Avenue, Eccleston Park, Preston, Lancashire L34 2QL. March 2.

Currency difficulties at the banks

From Mr Gordon C. Fenton

Sir, I am Mr G. H. H. White (Letters, February 24) full aware of the fact that we enjoy in transferring funds overseas due to the abolition of exchange control? May suggest he tries one of the following methods in the future instead of walking the dog:

(1) use the equivalent value sterling bank notes; (2) post his own sterling cheque; (3) telephone request to own bankers to transfer a sum to the international "Swiss" service. A transfer of this kind can be effected within hours.

All the above methods can be effected from one's domestic complications, identification of the "Swiss" service, methods 1 and 2 not involve charges and Whiteley could have retained the £3 he allocated there.

Yours faithfully, G. C. FENTON, Alqueria la Rana, Susans Lane, Uppingham, Nottingham, Kent.

Buying a car from British Leyland

From Mr John L. Joly

Sir, Having heard so often of the difficulties facing British Leyland, I wonder whether the following exchange of telegrams between them and my company might perhaps provide some clue to their problems.

On 6.2.81: "Wishing to order Mini station wagon for our London office. Any chance available second half March."

On 12.2.81 we sent the following reminder and had an "on the spot" exchange. Ours: "We would appreciate receiving your reply to our..."

Theirs: "I do not know for whom this message intended. I presented other one to Middle East director in Solihull last time. You can please give me a name. I will try to get results for you."

Ours: "We wish to buy one of your cars in England. Would you please reply to our original telegram."

in our Piccadilly office. They will assist I'm sure."

BL telexed us on 12.2.81: "Your telex has been referred to us at the tax-free sales centre in Piccadilly. Do you wish to purchase this vehicle for export...?"

We replied on 13.2.81: "As stated in our original telex, we want it for our London office. Please could you quote price and delivery...?"

BL replied on 13.2.81: "Have passed inquiry to 'and Co'. Please advise address London office for contact."

We replied on 14.2.81 that the office was not yet manned but would be as from March 16. We gave the address and telephone number, together with the name of our solicitors for reference purposes. We added: "But please place order for car now and advise cost and colour."

On 16.2.81 a different BL office telexed us: "Re: Mini station wagon—London office. Please clarify whether unit is required in UK (RED or LHD) or in Lebanon. Can then quote delivery price. Please reply by return."

On 17.2.81 we replied: "As already explained, the Mini station wagon we want is for

our London office therefore RHD."

On 19.2.81 we received from BL your inquiry risk being saved Mini estate for delivery in UK please advise whether vehicle to be retained in UK or to be used temporarily basis and then exported. We and we replied: "Cannot see how we can mail it any clearer that we want right hand drive Mini estate for delivery and use by London office in UK. There is no question of exporting it. Do you think this is now clear...?"

More than two weeks have passed, considerable telex exchanges have been incurred and BL have come very close to losing a sale. I wonder how long it would have taken to secure a Renault 5 or a Fiat 127? In my father's day employees in this company who had not British cars were frowned upon; nowadays British cars are understood only too easily why. Yours faithfully, JOHN L. JOLY, Henry Hald and Company, Beirut, Lebanon.



Mr John Kapiotas, Sheraton's British-based vice-president and Denham Place, the hotel group's country headquarters.

How Sheraton found a new image in rural Denham

Like most modern hotel companies, Sheraton has its share of properties in which architectural ingenuity, be it expressed in a shopping precinct, ice rink or a 22-floor waterfall, is considered to be at least as important as the quality of room service.

Perhaps the most interesting property, however, is a building which acts as the base for its European, African and Middle East operations, and doing so from a location of evident luxury and peace, not exactly distant from London, but then again well off the beaten track in comparison to the location of its competitors.

One could be forgiven for asking: how Sheraton has found a new image in rural Denham. The answer, apparently, is no, it is all part of a carefully-tailored image which the company is cultivating to promote the expansion of its luxury hotel business.

Until less than a year ago, the European division was based in IIT's European offices in Brussels. It was part and parcel of a large and conventional commercial operation, and one in which

known to interrupt business discussions in his palatial office to point out that a neighbour's horse has just wandered past the window.

Sheraton, of course, is owned by IIT, the huge American conglomerate with a reputation for hard dealing. The company is operating in one of the most hard-nosed and competitive areas of international business, and doing so from a location of evident luxury and peace, not exactly distant from London, but then again well off the beaten track in comparison to the location of its competitors.

One could be forgiven for asking: how Sheraton has found a new image in rural Denham. The answer, apparently, is no, it is all part of a carefully-tailored image which the company is cultivating to promote the expansion of its luxury hotel business.

Until less than a year ago, the European division was based in IIT's European offices in Brussels. It was part and parcel of a large and conventional commercial operation, and one in which

notions of a move to the countryside were hardly likely to be countenanced out of purely aesthetic motives.

Mr Kapiotas, who has seen the division grow from a mere two hotels in 1968 to 40 today, with another 14 under construction or in the planning stages, says: "As the properties we were opening increased our image started to develop. We wanted a new headquarters which would project that image to our investors and the world at large. A mansion fit that image."

Denham Place, which Sheraton has taken on a 25-year lease, fitted the bill. It was only 20 minutes from Heathrow airport, an important factor for an organisation in which most of its executives complete many thousands of miles of travelling each year. And it was close enough to London for potential investors in Sheraton projects to visit. Indeed, the company's set programme for such visitors includes a tour of the mansion, where some 58 people work. Few fell to be impressed.

Moving a company from one country to another—Sheraton was originally based in Brussels—can cause difficulties even when the eventual destination is the pleasant Buckinghamshire countryside.

Mr Kapiotas encountered only one serious objection from his senior staff, and took 28 people with it to Denham. "I think that 90 per cent of our people were very positive about the move," says Mr Kapiotas. "People realized what we were trying to do. Denham is impressive, when our investors and principals arrive and I think it is in keeping with the type of hotels which we manage."

Staff costs were lower than they had been in Brussels, and the company was surprised by the calibre of employees they were able to recruit locally.

"One of the reasons might have been that a lot of capable white collar people would rather work with us here than travel into the West End. The day-to-day working environment is outstanding, and overall we have made considerable savings."

The quality of the decision-making has improved, "or I would like to think so," Mr Kapiotas adds swiftly. Staff relations have benefited and the group is happy with the way the local community has responded to the importation of a comparatively large number of jobs.

Local gardeners look after the grounds, the village pub is pleased with the extra business, and one Sheraton executive even found himself invited to a party at the home of Denham's most famous resident, the actor Sir John Mills.

It is too early for Sheraton to judge whether the move to the country was an unqualified success. Some parts of the building have yet to be fully converted to take their place in the building's new role.

Mr Kapiotas concedes that the decision was very much an experiment. "I do not know of anyone else who has done anything like it."

David Hewson

Carrying on in the tradition of Dick Whittington

The Square Mile at the heart of the City of London is the most famous centre of commercial activity in the world. Tacitus, in the first century of the Roman occupation, called it "a town of the highest repute and a busy emporium for trade and traders."

Today the City means the Bank of England, Lloyd's, the Baltic Exchange, Billingsgate fish market, Smithfield, and the Guildhall, not to mention a megalopolis of 5100 companies, legions of speculative investors, and the memory of one former Lord Mayor whose financial dealings would have landed him in court had he lived long enough for the legal process to take its course.

Folklore may have it that Britain's fortunes are truly on the wane when the ravens leave the Tower of London, but who understands a few hundred yards outside the City's boundaries. But a more down-to-earth assessment of the nation's sickness would surely be signs of collapse within the Square Mile, and those are mercifully absent at the moment.

The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which is based in the City, exists to promote the business community of London and the South-east. It celebrates its centenary this year and intends to mark the event by sponsoring the City of London exhibition at the new £106m Barbican Centre next November.

Earl Jellicoe, the LCCI's presi-

dent, says: "The events now being organized are a positive act of faith in the ability of Britain to recover its industrial and commercial muscle. Occasions of pride in past achievements are certainly on the centenary calendar, but the chamber's main purpose is to lend its fullest support to a concerted effort to help to set the country on a course of new prosperity."

One sign that the City remains healthy is likely to be evident during the exhibition. The LCCI is to sponsor a conference between its ten member states and the 60 nations of the Pacific Group under the Lome Convention. The event will be one of the most important to be attracted to the Barbican Centre, the commercial side of the controversial bomb-site development, and with 200 delegates from 70 countries led by Mr Claude Cheysson, the EEC Commissioner for Development, is clearly something of a coup for the newly-opened venue.

Of the exhibition itself, Sir Ronald Gardner Thorpe, president Lord Mayor, says that it will "demonstrate to industrial and business communities at home and abroad that the City retains its premier place as the business, commercial and financial centre of the world."

"It will serve to prove that this historic Square Mile's future is as bright as its past, and that London remains, in

Industry in the regions

City of London

Donbar's words of 1501, 'the flower of cities all'."

Quite how much of all this is absorbed by the rollers who pour out of the multiple exits of Bank underground station each morning and ease the City into life is a matter of some speculation. The workforce of the Square Mile has certainly shrunk in the past decade, depleted by the move of some companies to out-of-London locations and the defection of others to Westminster where rates and rentals used to be lower.

Another 1,000 jobs will disappear at the end of the year when the Billingsgate fish market shutters and moves down river to Tower Hamlets. In the past decade the workforce of the City has slumped from the half million mark to around 350,000. Most commute to their workplaces, only 8,000 people actually live in the City, some 5,000 of them in the Barbican.

The biggest employer is the Bank of England, with more than 3,000 workers followed by the City Corporation, the distinctively idiosyncratic local

authority which, through an archaic system of aldermen, acts as a home base to all of the most important members of the area's ruling class.

Some 76 per cent of the working population earn their living in offices, compared with 58 per cent in central London, the largest category of these being clerical workers.

At the last census, in 1971, some 101,000 clerks, 37,000 typists and shorthand writers, 7,300 telephone operators, and 50 agricultural workers were counted. The proportions are not thought to have changed much except in two categories. Textiles, which once employed 540 people, have slumped, and the fact that Fleet Street comes within the City borders means that the 1971 estimates for the workforce of the printing industry, which then included 5,600 journalists alone, are now distinctly on the high side.

Whether the workforce of the City will start to rise again will depend upon the competitiveness of its rent and rates regime. When the corporation revalued in 1974, it was by such an extent that even some banks felt forced to give up their premises in Aldwych. Sentiment is unlikely to hold anyone to the Square Mile any more.

Of more immediate importance, as far as employment prospects are concerned, is the question of the City's tourist potential. The Barbican Centre will provide a new home for

the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra, as well as an art gallery, cinemas and restaurants. It may even make the unfortunate Barbican estate resemble something other than a ghost town after dark.

Billingsgate, when it becomes vacant, may be turned into a tourist shopping centre, though And Tower Bridge, which the corporation runs, is to see a new development for the public between the twin towers.

From the point of view of continued prosperity, the Square Mile would seem to have little cause for worry. Its financial institutions may not be imperious to change, Lloyd's being an obvious example, but their qualities are still much in demand from the rest of the world.

Commodities, shipping, Euro-markets, bullion, all rely on some aspect of the City's skills for their success. The vast majority of the country's visible earnings are generated in the small and crowded square which is bordered by boundaries dating from Roman and medieval times.

If ever there were a case for arguing that there are two Britains, the dealings of the City's affluent financial institutions contrast sharply with the collapse of industry in the Midlands and elsewhere.

DH

■ **Stock markets**
FT Ind 489.1
FT Gilt 68.36

■ **Sterling**
\$2.1940
Index 98.7

■ **Dollar**
Index 100.3
DM2.1325

■ **Gold**
\$468.50

■ **Money**
3-month sterling 12½-13½
3-month Euro-S 16½-17½
6-month Euro-S 16½-17½
Friday's close

SE puts its defence on fair trading inquiry

The Stock Exchange's 200-page justification of its Rule book is to be presented to the Office of Fair Trading today, but after two years of discussions and a year to compile its case before the Restrictive Practices Court, the presentation of evidence falls on a day when the Civil Service strike could mean there is no one to receive it.

The Stock Exchange was referred to the OFT in autumn 1978. It has been drawing up a defence of 181 rules which the OFT believes violate the 1973 Fair Trading Act. The case arose automatically from this legislation, which required all groups which sell services subject to defined terms and conditions to either abandon them or demonstrate in court that they are in the public interest.

It is estimated that the OFT evaluation will take two years, he case will come to court about 1983. The cost to exchange members, which started at around £500,000, has now risen to £1.5m, but at present there are no plans for a special levy.

N Sea licences to be awarded

Awards of licences for oil and gas exploration and production on the United Kingdom continental shelf in the North Sea will be made this week by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, after a record number of applications.

The first awards under the seventh round of licensing were made before Christmas and on blocks picked by oil companies. Those granted this week are on blocks specified by the Department of Energy.

Perkins pay claim

Shop stewards representing 6,000 production workers at the Perkins diesel engine plant in Peterborough have submitted a pay claim for an extra 20 per cent. The company recently trimmed its workforce by 1,300.

Fewer French cars

French car registrations in February were 17.6 per cent below their level of a year before at 134,353 and were 2 per cent below the January figure of 137,065, according to preliminary data released by the French car manufacturers' association.

Hopes of tin pact

Tin producer and consumer countries meet in Geneva today to try working out a new international tin agreement. The last round in December ended with a compromise accepted by all participants except the United States.

Stabilization moves

Governments of the western central banks will seek ways of stabilizing the money markets because of the way interest rates have jumped in western Europe when they meet in Basel today.

Herbert profit hopes

Tooping investments, the Birmingham company which acquired the Alfred Herbert name and Coventry manufacturing facilities from the National Enterprise Board, its former owners, said the company was still making slight losses but would begin to show a profit by the end of its financial year on July 31.

Talbot inquiry call

Mr James Milne, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, has written to Mr Bob Hughes, chairman of the Parliamentary Affairs committee on Scottish Affairs, demanding a one-day emergency inquiry into the shutdown of Talbot's Linwood car plant and its implications for the west of Scotland.

Opposition by President Reagan casts doubt on Mexico summit

From Frank Vogl
Washington, March 8

A summit meeting of leaders of developed and developing nations, planned to take place in Mexico in June, may be postponed, President Reagan is not believed to be enthusiastic about this conference.

Informed sources stated that the President was not happy about the practice of annual economic summits, concluding with a series of highly specific agreements. He would rather see such summits focus more on general issues.

The Reagan administration may also play down the significance of the summit of leaders from the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Canada, Japan and Italy, to take place in July in Ottawa.

Officials said that the Administration had already reached positions on a number of key international economic policy issues. It will support large-scale borrowing in the markets by the International Monetary Fund, and it has assured European officials that it will give strong support to the International Energy Agency.

However, officials gave a warning that the Administration was still in the early stages of formulating its foreign economic policy. This alone could undermine the usefulness of the Mexico and Canada summits.

The officials said that a White House decision had not been taken on whether President Reagan would attend the Mexican summit. "There has been a lot of talk in Europe about deferring this meeting," said one.

This meeting is intended to launch a new North-South dialogue and it is difficult to see how this can be achieved without United States involvement. A call for such a summit was made in the report on North-South issues published by

Cooperation with Nippon company may forge link similar to BL's relationship with Honda British Steel seeks technical help from Japan

From Peter Hazelhurst in Tokyo and David Hewson in London

Nippon Steel, the world's largest and most efficient producer of steel, has joined the growing number of successful Japanese companies which have been asked to help in the development of British industry.

The company has been asked to supply Britain with advanced technology so that the ailing British Steel Corporation can reconstruct three or four of its mills.

The forging of new links between Nippon Steel and the BSC came amid reports that BL, the government-backed car company, could become more closely involved with Honda, the Japanese car maker which will produce a new car at BL's Cowley plant later this year.

A Nippon Steel spokesman said in Japan yesterday that a team of experts led by Mr Masumi Aihara, the company's adviser, had completed a study of the plight of British Steel.

He said that Nippon Steel had been asked to provide Britain with advanced technology at the request of Mr Ian MacGregor, the corporation's chairman.

Nihon Keizai Shimbun, the Japanese economic journal, said yesterday that the move "may help improve Japan's relations with Britain and ease frictions caused by Japanese car exports".

The spokesman for Nippon Steel refused to explain how the company would assist the BSC, but said it would be in the field of providing advanced technology which "will increase BSC's yield and decrease production costs".

Nippon Steel is expected to present the corporation with a detailed report of how the British steel industry can be reconstructed. Japanese engineers, who visited British Steel plants unannounced a month ago, are expected to return to Britain in the near future, and the corporation is also expected to send a delegation of engineers to Japan.

plants helped Japan to surpass the United States last year as the non-Communist world's largest producer of steel. Nippon's engineering division has already provided 35 countries, including the United States, with its advanced technology, and helped other nations such as China to establish modern integrated steel mills.

A spokesman for British Steel said yesterday: "We have on several occasions called on the Japanese for technical assistance. The last example was for a blast furnace on Teesside."

"The Japanese are the acknowledged world leaders on large blast furnace technology."

Contrary to initial reports from Japan, any advice given by Nippon Steel would be incorporated into the BSC's existing rationalization plan. No new installations are envisaged. It remains to be seen how significant the links

between Nippon Steel and the BSC become.

While British Steel hopes that they are seen as purely informal discussions of mutual benefit at the moment, such discussions have led to concrete co-operation plans in the past.

The talks which led to the BL/Honda deal to produce a medium-size saloon at Cowley, to be called the Triumph Acclaim, arose from similar links.

Recent reports in Britain and Japan that Honda wanted to strengthen its links with the British car maker met with a muted response from BL yesterday. A company spokesman said: "We are talking to a lot of people about a lot of things all the time, but a lot of them will never see the light of day."

Honda has denied in Tokyo that it was interested in taking an equity stake in BL, but it may build BL's highly successful Mini Metro in Japan. Technical talks between the two companies about BL producing another Honda-designed car under licence in Britain have also taken place.

But the Japanese car company's willingness to talk about its links with closer links with BL has been met with a degree of surprise within the British company. Honda, like most Japanese car manufacturers, has been involved in talks internationally about cooperative projects in an attempt to head off mounting criticism about the domination of world markets by the Japanese.

Mitsubishi is planning an engine

plant in Indonesia; Pakistan is to assemble Suzuki cars; a number of Japanese manufacturers have interests in America; and Nissan, the maker of Datsun cars, wants to open a manufacturing plant in Britain.

Mr Kiyoshi Kawashima, Honda's president, has been quoted in Japan confirming that the company was seeking to extend its links with BL. Honda also said that it was active in response to approaches from the British Government, though the Department of Industry has denied that it knew of plans for closer collaboration.



Mr Ian MacGregor: asked for Japan's advanced technology.

Forecast of 3.25 million out of work by 1983

By David Blake
Economics Editor

A grim warning that there will be no significant recovery until 1983, with more than 3.25 million unemployed by the next general election, comes today from the Cambridge Econometrics Forecasting Group.

It predicts that nothing in the Budget will help manufacturing or unemployment significantly in the longer term.

The quarterly *Midland Bank Review* also gives a warning that any attempt to "turn the screw" again on control of the money supply would produce another drop in profitability and would make unemployment rise still further.

Although conceding that the Government has had some success in improving the productive efficiency of the economy, Midland says that this will not produce a recovery unless backed up by extra demand.

A further indication of the problems facing Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, in shaping his Budget is the call for an increase in the standard rate of income tax by James Capel, the City stockbroker.

It predicts that unless this is done, inflation will start to rise in the near future. It expects some upturn in the economy later in the year and also suggests that the Government's

resolve on pay in the public sector has shown signs of weakening.

The proposal for raising taxes is strongly attacked by Cambridge Econometrics, which is separate from Mr Wynn Godley's Cambridge Economic Policy Group. Cambridge Econometrics predicts that raising standard income tax rates to 33 per cent would add 100,000 to unemployment totals and cut national output by 1 per cent.

It forecasts that the Chancellor will be able to achieve his plans for controlling the money supply with a higher level of public borrowing than envisaged in the medium-term financial strategy published last year.

Cambridge Econometrics is scathing about reported plans to uprate personal tax allowances by less than the full value of inflation, pointing out that this means more bureaucracy and more people being caught in the tax net.

It expects little help for industry from easing of such things as National Insurance contributions by employers. The main issue facing the Government is reducing the exchange rate, it argues. A drop in the value of the pound would push up profits and save jobs.

Cambridge Econometrics predicts that the prospect of an election will force the Government to cut taxes over the rest of its lifetime.

Office of Fair Trading checks on wire maker

By John Huxley

Twil, the Sheffield-based wire maker in which the British Steel Corporation has a 20 per cent stake, has been asked by the Office of Fair Trading to supply information about aspects of its business.

The inquiries have been initiated under the terms of restrictive practices legislation, and Twil has been given 28 days in which to reply.

Through its subsidiaries, such as Tinsley Wire, Twil claims to have about 40 per cent of the United Kingdom nail market and a share of between 70 and 100 per cent of every other wire producer, such as netting, field fence, barbed wire and chain link. The principal end user is the farming community.

It has a wire-drawing capacity of more than 350,000 tonnes, most of which is made into galvanized wire and fencing products. At the end of last year it had a United Kingdom workforce of about 5,000.

It is a private company and the state-owned British Steel Corporation has a 20 per cent stake, but commands 25 per cent of the voting power. The balance is held by Bridon and the Belcaert Group, of Belgium.

Mr Dilwyn Scriven, general manager of Tinsley Wire, confirmed that a letter had been received from the Office of Fair Trading, but he declined to disclose its precise content.

"It would be premature to comment. We are not entirely sure what this is about. It may be a false alarm," he said.

Last year, the group announced that it was cutting the prices of its barbed wire in a move to halt the advance of cheap imports from the eastern block Comecon countries. Twil is a customer of British Steel, although it has been engaged in negotiations recently to import nails.

It sells its products through a number of distributors, and it is understood that the OFT's inquiries relate to the group's relations on marketing policy with these. Twil would not confirm or deny this.

The Office of Fair Trading also refused to comment.

Video war looming on cassette sales

By David Hewson

A pre-recorded video war is likely to break out in the High Streets in the next fortnight. Thorn-EMI is to launch a £500,000 television and press promotion in 10 days' time to announce the formation of video libraries and sales outlets operating out of Woolworth, Boots, W. H. Smith and John Menzies, as well as main television rental outlets.

It will offer such feature film titles as *The Deer Hunter*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Death on the Nile* and *Citizen Kane*, as well as *Thames Television* and *World at War* and *Botanic Man*.

Thorn-EMI aims to become market leader in a rapidly growing sector, but it is likely to face intense competition from a number of other companies trying to widen the base of their video rental and sales, including Warner Home Video, a division of WEA Records, and CIC Video UK.

Most pre-recorded video sales in the past have been from specialist stores, many of them offering a high proportion of soft-porn cassettes.

But the market is expected to be more than double to around the £50m mark this year, with the growth in sales of video cassette recorders and the increasing number of outlets for recorded tapes costing anything from £29, for an ageing *Carry On* film, to £40 for an up-to-date feature. Rental cassettes are widely available and will depend upon individual retailers.

There are around 600,000 video recorders in the United Kingdom and the number is expected to increase to about one million by the end of the year.

Mr Nicholas Bingham, marketing director managing director of Thorn-EMI Video Programme, said that the television campaign which it was about to launch would not normally be justified by the relatively small number of video owners. But the company was trying to increase the size of the market overall as well as its share in it.

"We would not normally advertise on television to get to this size of market, but we feel that there is a very low awareness of video cassettes. We estimate the market for pre-recorded cassettes in 1981 could be about 1.5 million cassettes sold through retail outlets."

Canals board facing £100m repairs bill

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Britain's canal system is faced with huge contraction unless the British Waterways Board secures additional funds to carry out long overdue maintenance work which could cost more than £100m.

Over the next few weeks, the board is expected to start a campaign to persuade the Government to increase the amount of cash made available to the board to meet its statutory duties. Arrears of maintenance have been building up for several years, affecting bridges, tunnels, reservoirs and the canals themselves.

The Government's Water Bill, which received its third reading last month, will provide for an increase in the borrowing ceiling for the waterways board from £20m to £35m.

The first £5m will be authorized when the Bill receives Royal Assent, and the balance will be allocated on the order of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. But the increase in the borrowing ceiling will only allow the board, which is responsible for maintaining about 2,000 miles of inland waterways, to raise cash to meet its capital investment requirements.

For many years the board's income has been insufficient to cover its costs. It receives an annual grant from the Exchequer to cover the deficit.



Sir Frank Price: the board faces tremendous problems.

which on average has amounted to about 60 per cent of its total revenue costs.

Sir Frank Price, chairman, said over the weekend that the board faced tremendous problems in finding the money required to ensure that the system was restored to a safe condition.

Failure to carry out essential and urgent maintenance work, he said, would put at risk the pleasure of thousands of people as well as many jobs and investment geared to the inland waterway network.

Work set to start on £300m cracker

By Our Industrial Staff

Work will start in the next few days on the £300m ethylene cracker for Esso Chemicals at Middlesbrough. It will use ethane from North Sea oil fields as a feedstock and is due to be completed in 1985.

At the weekend, Esso announced that Tractor Shovels (Contracts) of Inverthwaite, a subsidiary of the London and Northern Group, will be responsible for site preparation.

The contract, awarded by Lummus, the main contractor on the Mossburn project, will continue for nine months and provide employment for up to 140 people.

The cracker project, which is

one of the largest construction tasks undertaken in Britain in recent years, is crucial for several sectors of British industry.

Over the coming months large orders for hardware for the plant will be placed, and British process plant manufacturers have been working hard to ensure that most of them stay in the United Kingdom.

Esso has always said that its ordering will be done according to long-standing criteria of price, quality and delivery, but it has indicated that it would value the shorter lines of communication derived from working with British manufacturers.

The project is also an important test of the British large-scale construction industry.

The remaining 15 per cent of spending benefits mainly the English Tourist Board, which expects increasing spending in this field to account for 20 per cent of total sponsorship within a couple of years. Other spending goes on "social sponsorship" for projects such as the relief of unemployment or the provision of social benefits in deprived areas.

The board's latest research showed that last year Benson & Hedges, the Calabar tobacco company, spent £80,000. Sun Alliance the insurance company spent £70,000, Martini spent £54,000 on golf sponsorship

ban on direct advertising. The remaining 15 per cent of spending benefits mainly the English Tourist Board, which expects increasing spending in this field to account for 20 per cent of total sponsorship within a couple of years. Other spending goes on "social sponsorship" for projects such as the relief of unemployment or the provision of social benefits in deprived areas.

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Social bid for Amax tests administration's attitude to conglomerates

President's anti-trust policy goes on trial

Standard Oil Company of California's bid for Amax Incorporated could be a test case of the Reagan Administration's anti-trust policies. The bid, worth around \$4,000m (£1,800m), is the largest of its kind in corporate history anywhere in the world.

Articulate opponents of big business marriages, such as Mr Ralph Nader and Senator Edward Kennedy, are bound to oppose the Social bid for Amax and provide some good stories, even if their influence proves to be small. All the early indications are that America's so-called anti-trust policy is not even appearing in their dictionary.

But the degree of business concentration in America is astounding, and even the free market men in charge of anti-trust issues in the United States cannot be entirely oblivious of this. Insight into the scale of concentration is provided in two volumes on the subject recently published by the senate committee on government affairs.

The report focused on 100 leading companies in assorted key business sectors, including finance, manufacturing and re-

tail. On the investment front, it found that J. P. Morgan, parent company of the Morgan Guaranty Trust, was by far the largest shareholder in the 100, with holdings valued at \$18,500m (£8,400m) at the end of 1979.

The second largest investor was the Capital Group, a Californian-based holding company, with \$7,700m of shares, and just behind came Citicorp with \$7,600m. One aspect of concentration was shareholdings in competitors, with Morgan, for example, the biggest single shareholder in Citicorp and largest in Ford Motor Company and third largest in International Harvester. It is also the largest single shareholder in US Steel, Bethlehem Steel and Armco Steel.

Of course, it is not just investments and joint directorships that link firms together. The Pearl Marwick Mitchell accounting firm does the books of each of the top three rival banks in New York—Citicorp, Chase and Manufacturers Hanover.

Meanwhile, Price Waterhouse audits the next three biggest New York banks—Chemical, Morgan and Bankers Trust. Incidentally, Price Waterhouse

does the accounts of a quarter of the top 100 companies reviewed by the congressional committee.

Senator Kennedy sought not long ago to introduce legislation limiting the development of conglomerates. His Bill would have made it impossible, for example, for Social to acquire Amax.

But the Bill failed, and the attitudes of the new administration may inspire more takeovers, more conglomerates and still more business concentration.

Full encouragement to Social in its Amax bid by Washington's anti-trust lawyers would spark a new tidal wave of takeover bids and battles.

Even if Amax does rebuff Social and their marriage is not consummated, brokers on Wall Street believe that a flood of conglomerate developments is likely, encouraged by the government's attitude. They also believe the oil companies will be at the forefront of this movement, flush with funds to finance corporate purchases thanks to the profits resulting directly from President Reagan's decision to decontrol oil prices.

Frank Vogl
in Washington

Brewery tenants complain of tied soft drink sales

By Our Commercial Editor

Tenants of Samuel Smith of Tadcaster, the Yorkshire independent brewer, have added another area to the investigations being made into brewers' trading practices by Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

The tenants have complained of being tied to selling ancillary drinks lines under penalty of having their rents raised.

The Samuel Smith tenants were so angry at this that they have rejected the brewery's new rents review. They have written to the Office of Fair Trading pointing out that under one option a tenant had to carry only the brewery's soft

drink line and follow brewery-recommended prices for bitter.

A second option involved fewer conditions, with a free choice in soft drinks but a higher rent.

The OFT is expected to look closely at the tying of soft drink sales. The principle of brewers selling predominantly their own beer in their tenanted houses has never been an issue in the trade.

But tenants have complained in the past at being restricted to buying their spirits and wines supplies and soft drinks from the brewery, often at prices higher than even in the local supermarket.

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Belgium F	81.75	77.75	South Africa R	2.25	1.91
Canada \$	2.70	2.61	Spain Ptas	193.50	184.50
Denmark Kr	15.40	14.60	Sweden Kr	10.65	10.10
Finland Mk	5.45	5.95	Switzerland Fr	4.45	4.23
France Fr	11.40	10.90	USA \$	2.24	2.17
Germany DM	4.95	4.62	Yugoslavia Dnr	50.00	76.50
Greece Dr	116.00	110.00			
Hongkong \$	12.10	11.50			
Iceland Ft	1.33	1.27			
Italy L	2340.00	2320.00			
Japan Yen	452.00	456.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.36	5.10			

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MANAGEMENT

Edited by Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

Consultancy in the recession

Martin Vanderstee, this year's chairman of the Management Consultants Association, reckons that the nature of the business has changed substantially since he came into it 20 years ago.

Time was when the management consultant was a creature from a strange planet, thinking and talking in a language quite different to that of the earth-bound industrialists and traders who employed his services when driven to it by dire necessity. Now, he says, clients are quite likely to use their management consultants as a pool of labour, highly trained but basically complementary to their existing staff, on which they can draw when the pressure is on.

That, he thinks, reflects the fact that clients have become very much more sophisticated in their approach, so that they now employ internally the sort of techniques that were peculiar to the management consultant 20 years ago. And, because companies are now reluctant to employ staff to cope with peak periods when it might be difficult and/or expensive to shed them, it is a trend he can see accelerating.

Not that the old-style, trouble-shooting consultant has passed into oblivion. On the contrary, he is almost as much in demand as ever, though the nature of his client has changed. According to members of the Management Consultants Association, demand has held up surprisingly well over the past year, and while the number of consultants may have declined slightly—by perhaps 5 per cent, according to Mr Vanderstee, this is largely a result of under-recruiting. Certainly, he says, there has been nothing remotely like the shakeout of 1972.

The worst of the downturn has been overseas, reflecting the impact of a stronger pound. In the United Kingdom, of course, demand from manufacturing industry is some respects well down, because attempts to improve production



Mr Martin Vanderstee, chairman of the Management Consultants Association: providing a highly trained pool of labour.

and marketing have been postponed, and large-scale construction projects that might otherwise have required appraisal have simply been shelved.

As against this, however, there is if anything a stronger demand for consultancy on ways to improve efficiency and cash flow, and data processing work is "resource bound"—that is, there simply are not enough trained consultants to undertake the work on offer. Faced with rapidly deteriorating conditions, British management seems to have been converted wholesale to the view that more rapid access to more information cannot hurt and might help.

Demand for consultancy services from the few relatively healthy sectors of the British economy—oil and gas, the financial sector, and distribution and retailing—is holding up well.

Demand from central government is down, but from local government, curiously enough, it is well up—well up because the local authorities are desperate for methods of improving their financial controls, and of

proving to their ratepayers that they are providing value for money.

So one way and another the management consultants seem to be coming through the recession in reasonable shape. All of which is well enough for the consultants, but what about British industry? Mr Vanderstee admits that consultancy is a "maturing profession", no longer in a phase of rampant growth.

Within his own firm, some 60 per cent of work comes from clients whom the firm has served before, and another 20 per cent from companies to which employees of Arthur Andersen itself, or of one of its previous clients have moved. That can be taken as evidence that Arthur Andersen has many satisfied clients. It can also be taken as evidence that the firm is selling to the converted.

Likewise, the fact that members of the Management Consultants Association have had the Times top 100 companies among their clients may be impressive, but it raises a

great many questions about the smaller companies that either all or have used them and come away disillusioned by the experience.

It is partly with a view to assisting such potential clients that the Management Consultants Association has this year produced its first directory of member firms and their services to clients. This is large, highly informative, and available free from the MCA.

In addition to an introductory section on client-consultant relations—covering such things as the association's code of professional practice, and some sensible advice on selecting a consultant—there is a section describing the scope of members' services in general, and another giving a general description of each member firm (tends to be pretty anodyne but gives some idea of size and age), a list of the activities it undertakes (full and useful), and a selection of "illustrative engagements".

Of course there are also

addresses, telephone numbers, the names of key personnel and an indication of the firm's overseas connections. Anyone looking for a consultancy should be able to get a good idea of which firms are likely to be interested and interesting from this (failing which, the association's executive director will point them in the direction of three or four of them).

One problem, of course, is that not every reputable consultancy firm is a member of the MCA (so far there are 25, and their ranks are swelling by about two a year). The membership qualifications are pretty ferocious (members must have been in practice for at least five years in the United Kingdom; the partners or directors must have had at least ten years' experience; the average length of service with the firm of the whole consulting staff must be at least three years, and at least 25 per cent of the staff must have served with the same firm for five years; and so on).

For this Mr Vanderstee apologises not at all. It may deter the young hopefuls but it also keeps out the fly-by-nights; and the association's executive director runs an annual check to see that members continue to conform.

Given that it is the only association of established management consultants in the United Kingdom, the MCA's activities are still relatively modest in scope, though pursued with vigour once undertaken.

Mr Vanderstee would like to see it undertake conferences and seminars, set up collective training courses for members' staff, and publish a good many more publications. In consultancy terms this is known as "organization development and policy formation". But even for the consultants it has to remain a matter of "long term planning".

Adrienne Gleeson
*Management Consultants Association, 23 Cromwell Place, London SW7 2LG.



Mr John Kapiotas, Sheraton's British-based vice-president and Denham Place, the hotel group's country headquarters.



How Sheraton found a new image in rural Denham

Like most modern hotel companies, Sheraton has its share of properties in which architectural ingenuity, be it expressed in a shopping precinct, a rink or a 24-hour waterfall, is considered to be at least as important as the quality of room service.

Perhaps the most interesting property, however, is a building which acts as the base for its European, African and Middle East operations. Built between 1968 and 1971, Denham Place is a grade one listed building owned by the Allied Breweries pension fund and standing in its own 12-acre grounds in the sleepy Buckinghamshire village of Denham.

Once owned by Harry Saltzman, the James Bond film maker who used it as a home from home for his stars, the house boasts its own chapel, a number of listed period fireplaces and an ambience more in keeping with the life-style of the 1930s bourgeoisie than the day-to-day running of a big American corporation.

Mr John Kapiotas, the divisional president, who is a native of Akron, Ohio, is

known to interrupt business discussions in his palatial office to point out that a neighbour's horse has just wandered past the window.

Sheraton, of course, is owned by ITC, the huge American conglomerate with a reputation for hard dealing. The company is operating in one of the most hard-nosed and competitive areas of international business, and doing so from a location of evident luxury and peace, not exactly distant from London, but then again well off the beaten track in comparison to the location of its competitors.

It is not hard to forgive for asking: has Sheraton gone soft? The answer, apparently, is no. In the location may be, but it is all part of a carefully-tailored image which the company is cultivating to promote the expansion of its luxury hotel business.

Until less than a year ago, the European division was based in ITC's European offices in Brussels. It was part and parcel of a large and conventional commercial operation, and one in which

notions of a move to the countryside were hardly likely to be countenanced out of purely aesthetic motives.

Mr Kapiotas, who has seen the division grow from a mere two hotels in 1968 to 40 today, with another 14 under construction or in the planning stages, says: "As the properties we were opening increased our image started to develop. We wanted a new headquarters which would project that image to our investors and the world at large. A mansion fit the bill."

Denham Place, which Sheraton has taken on a 25-year lease from the ITC group, is a 20-minute drive from Heathrow airport, an important factor for an organization in which most of its executives complete many thousands of miles of travelling each year. And it was close enough to London for potential investors in Sheraton projects to visit. Indeed, the company's set programme for such visitors includes a tour of the mansion where some 58 people work. Few fail to be impressed. Moving a company from one

country to another—Sheraton was originally based in Brussels—can cause difficulties even when the eventual destination is the pleasant Buckinghamshire countryside.

Sheraton encountered only one serious objection from its senior staff, and took 28 people with it to Denham.

"I think that 90 per cent of our people were very positive about the move," says Mr Kapiotas. "People realized what we were trying to do. Denham is impressive when our investors and principals arrive and I think it is in keeping with the type of hotels which we manage."

Staff costs were lower than they had been in Brussels, and the company was surprised by the calibre of employees they were able to recruit locally. One of the reasons might have been that a lot of capable white collar people would rather work with us here than travel into the West End. The day-to-day working environment is outstanding, and over all we have made considerable savings." The quality of the decision-

making has improved, "or I would like to think so," Mr Kapiotas adds. Staff relations have benefited, and the group is happy with the way the local community has responded to its presence.

Local gardeners look after the grounds, the village pub is pleased with the extra business, and one Sheraton executive even found himself invited to a party at the home of Denham's most famous resident, the actor Sir John Mills.

It is too early for Sheraton to judge whether the move to the country was an unqualified success. Some parts of the building have yet to be fully converted to take their place in the building's new role.

Mr Kapiotas concedes that the decision was very much an experiment. "I do not know of anyone else who has done anything like it."

David Hewson

Carrying on in the tradition of Dick Whittington

The Square Mile at the heart of the City of London is the most famous centre of commercial activity in the world. In the first century of the Roman occupation, called it "a town of the highest repute and a busy emporium for trade and traders".

Today the City means the Bank of England, Lloyd's, the Baltic Exchange, Billingsgate fish market, Smithfield, and the Guildhall, not to mention a megalopolis of 210 companies, legions of speculative investors, and the memory of one former Lord Mayor whose financial dealings would have landed him in court had he lived long enough for the legal process to take its course.

Folklore may have it that Britain's fortunes are truly on the wane when the ravens leave the Tower of London which stands a few hundred yards outside the City's boundaries. But a more down-to-earth assessment of the nation's sickness would surely be signs of collapse within the Square Mile, and those are mercifully absent at the moment.

The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which is based in the City exists to promote the business community of London and the South-east. It celebrates its centenary this year and intends to mark the event by sponsoring the City of London exhibition at the new £106m Barbican Centre next November.

ent, says: "The events now being organized are positive acts of faith in the ability of Britain to recover its industrial and commercial muscle. Occasions of pride in past achievements are certainly on the centenary calendar, but the chamber's main purpose is to lead its fullest support to a concerted effort to help to set the country on a course of new prosperity."

One sign that the City remains healthy is likely to be evident during the exhibition. The EEC is to sponsor a conference between its ten member states and the 50 nations of the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific Group under the Lome Convention. The event will be one of the most important to be attracted to the Barbican Centre, the commercial side of the controversial bomb-site development, and with 350 delegates from 78 countries, led by Claude Cheysson, the EEC Commissioner for Development, is clearly something of a coup for the newly-opened venue.

Of the exhibition itself, Sir Ronald Gardner Thorpe, the present Lord Mayor, says that it will "demonstrate to industrial and business communities at home and abroad that the City retains its premier place as the business, commercial and financial centre of the world."

"It will serve to prove that this historic Square Mile's future is as bright as its past, and that London remains, in

Industry in the regions

City of London

Dunbar's words of 1501, 'the flower of cities all'.

Quite how much of all this is absorbed by the toilers who pour out of the multiple exits of Bank underground station each morning and ease the City into life is a matter of some speculation. The workforce of the Square Mile has certainly shrunk in the past decade, depleted by the move of some companies to out-of-London locations and the defection of others to Westminster, where rates and rentals used to be lower.

Another 1,000 jobs will disappear at the end of the year when the Billingsgate fish market shuts and moves down river to Tower Hamlets. In the past decade the workforce of the City has slumped from the half million mark to around 350,000. Most commute to their workplaces, only 8,000 people actually live in the City, some 5,000 of them in the Barbican.

The biggest employer is the Bank of England with more than 3,000 workers followed by the City Corporation, the district's idiosyncratic local

authority which, through an archaic system of aldermen, acts as *alma mater* to all of the most important members of the area's ruling class.

Some 76 per cent of the working population earn their living in offices, compared with 35 per cent in central London, the largest category of these being clerical workers.

At the last census, in 1971, some 101,000 clerks, 37,000 typists and shorthand writers, 7,320 telephone operators, and 50 agricultural workers were counted. The proportions are not thought to have changed much except in two categories. Textiles, which once employed 540 people, have slumped, and the fact that Fleet Street comes within the City borders means that the 1971 estimates for the workforce of the printing industry, which then included 5,600 journalists alone, are now distinctly on the high side.

Whether the workforce of the City will start to rise will depend upon the competitiveness of its rent and rates regime. When the corporation retained in 1974, it was by such an extent that even some banks felt forced to give up their place in the traditional home of their business and move to new premises in Aldwych. Sentiment is unlikely to hold anyone to the Square Mile any more.

Of more immediate importance, as far as employment prospects are concerned, is the question of the City's tourist potential. The Barbican Centre will provide a new home for

the Royal Shakespeare Company and the London Symphony Orchestra, as well as an art gallery, cinemas and restaurants. It may even make the unfortunate Barbican estate resemble something other than a ghost town after dark.

Billingsgate, when it becomes vacant, may be turned into a tourist shopping centre, though there are planning difficulties. And Tower Bridge, which the corporation runs, is to see a new development for the public between the twin towers.

From the point of view of continued prosperity, the Square Mile would seem to have little cause for worry. Its financial institutions may not be impervious to change, Lloyd's being an obvious example, but their qualities are still much in demand from the rest of the world.

Commodities, shipping, Euro-markets, bullion, all tend to rely on some aspect of the City's skills for their success. The vast majority of the country's visible earnings are generated in the small and crowded square which is bordered by boundaries dating from Roman and medieval times.

If there were a case for arguing that there are two Britains, the dealings of the City's affluent financial institutions must contrast vividly with the collapse of industry in the Midlands and elsewhere.

DH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reassessing the value of coal

From the Master of Churchill College, Cambridge
Sir, This is the moment to press government, industry and commerce to use coal instead of oil and gas. There are many reasons—coal is cheaper than oil or gas per therm of heating value, we have plenty of it and so does the world, it is easier and more rewarding to export our oil (and gas) than our coal, alternatively such a policy permits us, if we wish, to reduce the rate of depletion of our oil and gas reserves.

But the most important reason stems from the conclusion of the World Energy Conference and many other bodies including our Department of Energy, which can be summed up in the statement that the world supply of petroleum will never again exceed that of 1973. When this is literally true or not, the peak of petroleum and natural gas production and its decline are clearly visible. The Department of Energy has been studying, and signalling this fact to consumers by

its pricing policy, and no doubt hoping that industry and others will conserve energy and switch to coal in plenty of time so that their future prosperity will not be prejudiced by energy problems.

Many of us need to wipe the cobwebs off our picture of the coal stakehold, because modern methods make it possible to burn coal cleanly and with little labour. The drawbacks to the rapid substitution of coal for oil and gas appear to be lack of cash for the investment of equipment and uncertainty about future regulations and supply. Pay-back periods are encouraging, although not dramatic.

Government should look again at the possibility of giving financial help towards substitution, without having the taxpayer excessively reward those who will save money by switching to coal. The chemical industry and others who are complaining of competition from countries whose governments have an ostrich-like attitude to energy prices, or prefer dirigisme, should be especially assisted to adapt to coal.

Nevertheless, it might be lessened if the Government itself gave a lead. Just as the Property Services Agency and the DHSS showed what could be done in energy conservation, they should now be seen to give a similar lead in the use of coal. Local authorities should also be advised to convert their own large users and to encourage others. To allow uncertainty about supply is a major task of the coal industry, but gas and oil suppliers might be more flexible in their attitude to the provision of emergency supplies.

Government energy policy is based on conservation, coal and nuclear. It is time it began to promote the use of coal much more seriously.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HAWTHORNE,
Churchill College,
Cambridge CB3 0DS.
March 4.

Rural small industries

From Mr Michael Dower
Sir, I am writing to express the concern of the eight member organizations of Rural Voice, an alliance of national organizations representing rural communities, about the future of the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (COSIRA).

It is now 20 months since the Government commissioned, and over 12 months since it received, the report of a review by civil servants of the work of the Development Commission and its subsidiary COSIRA. This report has not been published, nor has the Government's consultation on the subject.

Now, however, there is a strong rumour that COSIRA is about to be merged into a larger unit, serving small businesses in both urban and rural areas under the auspices not of the Development Commission and the Department of the Environment, but of the Department of Industry.

We quite understand that urban areas may need a service not unlike that which COSIRA has so effectively given to the countryside. But we are concerned that COSIRA's specialist knowledge

of the needs of rural businesses, and its close links to hundreds of such businesses on the ground, should not be weakened. Indeed, we believe the present COSIRA is doing a good job, and the vital importance of small firms of all kinds to the health of the rural economy, call for the continued extension of COSIRA's remit to cover shops, garages and other small enterprises in rural areas. Moreover, the close links between COSIRA and the Development Commission need to be strengthened for their mutual benefit, rather than weakened.

For this reason, we should prefer to see COSIRA retained in its present form with extended remit and resources. On one other point, we urge, that it remains semi-autonomous as a rural organization, with dedicated expertise and resources, and functioning as an executive arm of the Development Commission.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DOWER,
Chairman, Rural Voice,
26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU.
February 27.

Micro-chip to make the beds and darn socks

From Mr A. F. Bromige
Sir, Iain Murray, in his article, "Gadgets without fears" (March 2), says that the micro-chip revolution promises to banish for ever the drudgery of domestic life and he seems surprised that a sample of housewives experienced some anxiety at being confronted with and being expected to operate a Prestel receiver, a home computer, a video-cassette recorder and a microwave oven.

It is not clear to this household operative how any of these gadgets reduce, in the slightest, the alone banish, what some call drudgery. If the housewife could have seen some use in any of the four articles she was confronted with she would have been able to operate the set as well as the can operate her cooker, washing machine or sewing machine.

If the manufacturer can design a micro-chip to make the beds and to take out the dead ashes from the fire, to clean the windows and darn the socks, to cut the sandwiches for the children's lunch and to make the cake and to walk the vacuum cleaner over all the floors, then the housewife will find the housewife will learn to operate this wonder-machine in a flash. Until then, she is not going to regard the gadget society that we seem to be becoming.

Yours faithfully,
A. F. BROMIGE,
West Holme,
The Ridgeway,
Frisson,
East Sussex BN20 0EZ.

this handicap, but I also cannot appreciate the need for the increasing complexity and multiplicity of functions of some of our household appliances.

I seem to recall that we welcomed the earlier models of clothes driers, vacuum cleaners, machines and of tumble driers because these had few programmes and no symbols. I wonder whether manufacturers appreciate that many women like to feel that they have control of their machines and like to adapt their functions to the family's needs and routines.

The advantage of a washing machine is that clothes can be soon back in use, but its advantage is reduced if one has to wait days for a particular programme.

I have two electronic "marvels" in my kitchen—an oven and a tumble dryer—on which the symbols are so unintelligible that I need to have the meaning stuck to adjoining cupboards. Perhaps a man's symbol is a woman's mystery.

The tumble dryer is a great improvement on my old one, as it is much larger and is packed with more clothes, but the housewife, however, it has a multiplicity of programmes (I think eleven) of which I only use two—those for cottons and for men-made linen. For the latter, I need to know whether or not I wish to iron my shirts and bed linen—surely most of us do?

Similarly, I am puzzled by similar programmes. This blows cold air to remove unpleasant smells—can any really remain after a machine wash?

I hope these comments will help manufacturers increase their understanding of housewives' needs.
Yours truly,
ANN BROOKE,
Keasdon,
13 Central Avenue,
Ecclestone Park,
Rushmore, Wokingham,
Berkshire RG4 2QJ.
March 2.

Buying a car from British Leyland

From Mr John L. Joly
Sir, Having heard so often of the difficulties facing British Leyland, I wonder whether the following exchange of letters between them and my company might perhaps provide some clue to their problems?

Ours of 6.2.81: "Wishing to order Mini station wagon for our London office, my client is available second half March."

On 11.2.81 we sent the following reminder and had an "on the spot" exchange.
Ours: "We would appreciate receiving your reply to our..."

Theirs: "Do not know for whom this message intended. I pressing other ones on Middle East director in Sultan last time. If you can please give me a name I will try to get results for you."

Ours: "We wish to buy one of your cars in England. Would you please reply to our original letter."

in our Piccadilly office. They will assist I'm sure."
BL telexed us on 12.2.81: "Your telex has been referred to us at the motor sales centre in Epsom. Do you wish to purchase this vehicle for export?"

We replied on 12.2.81: "As stated in our original telex, we want it for our London office. Please could you quote price and delivery..."

BL replied on 12.2.81: "Have passed inquiry to 'E' and 'Co'. Please advise address London office for contact."
We replied on 14.2.81 that the office was not yet manned but would be as from March 16. We gave the address and telephone number in Sultan last with the name of our solicitors for reference purposes. We added: "But please place order for car now and advise cost and colour."

On 15.2.81 a different BL office telexed us: "Mini station wagon—London office. Please clarify whether unit is required in UK (RHD or LHD) or in Lebanon. Can then quote delivery price. Please reply by return." On 17.2.81 we replied: "As already explained, the Mini station wagon we want is for

The 'unfair' company car perk

From Mr R. T. W. Rumsey
Sir, A headmaster of the Management Association of your Business News section (March 2) reads: "How fair is the company car?"

In truth it is completely unfair. It is even more so when viewed as a perk completely baffles me. The provision of a car together with tax, insurance and maintenance has always been seen as part of the salary of the person to whom the vehicle has been allocated. The actual cash part of his salary is adjusted accordingly.

The true value of the provision of the company car is never taken into consideration when assessing the employee's pension and as a result any unfortunate "enjoying" the benefit of this so-called perk has the certain knowledge that upon retirement he will be much less than he would have enjoyed had he received a salary which would have allowed him to provide his own vehicle together with the associated running costs.

By fostering the principle of providing a vehicle and attaching to this a curious status, the majority of the employees in Britain effectively reduce their pension fund commitment and most certainly reduce the standard of living of their retired employees. Ironically, the reduced pension falls upon those employees who, during their working life, were deemed to be of sufficient standing within the company to merit the use of a company vehicle. In other words, those that serve the company best can expect to end up with only a limited recognition of their services.

Yours sincerely,
R. T. W. RUMSEY,
Eggswood Cottage,
Randcomb,
Nr Cirencester,
Gloucestershire,
March 3.

Currency difficulties at the banks

From Mr Gordon C. Fenton
Sir, I am Mr J. H. H. Whiteley (Letters, February 24) fully aware of the freedom we now enjoy in transferring funds overseas due to the abolition of exchange control. May I suggest he tries one of the following methods in the future instead of walking the city streets to no avail:

(1) post equivalent value of sterling bank notes;
(2) post his own sterling cheque;
(3) telephone request to his own bankers to transfer a sterling or foreign currency value by the international "SWIFT" service. A transfer of this kind can be effected within 24 hours.

All the above methods can be effected from one's desk, without complicated identification or embarrasing "SWIFT" reference. Methods 1 and 2 do not involve charges and Mr Whiteley could have retained the £3 he allocated for these.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. FENTON,
Alqueria la Rana,
Susans Lane,
Tisbury,
Wiltshire, BA14 0JN.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. JOLY,
Henry Head and Company,
100, Strand,
London WC2R 0JN.

Survival is success in itself. Hugh Clayton reports on an industry under extreme pressure

Why food prices have marked time

Business Diary profile: Servants no longer civil

banks, insurers and public institutions, the diversified activities of the Group compared with the previous year.

The building industry continues to decline on itself in the competitive tender sector. The situation during the ensuing years is uncertain, but in this sector its own deteriorates announced in November 1980 to housing sector, especially now that the Banks with a lowering of their mortgage helped to take advantage of an improved contributions towards profits from our own encouraging the expansion of Pirelli and Venzoni. The subsidiaries which had a high turnover and profitability, by opening the existing branch in Shoreditch.

Finally, it is difficult to forecast the current year, but, in the light of what I have said in my previous annual report, I consider

contributions towards profits from one re-encouraging the expansion of Pickers and Ventilating Subsidiary, which had a high turnover and profitability, by opening the existing branch in Aberdeen.

Now, it is difficult to forecast the current year, but, in the light of what I have said in my previous accounting period, I consider

ALBERT A. BETT *Chairman*

BROTHERS LIMITED
General Meeting of Ben Brothers Limited held at
10, Market Street, Dundee on Friday 6th March 1988.
The following was read and approved: Statement of the Chairman.

my Report to the Shareholders on the year ended 31st August, 1980.

deducting minority interest, the profit was £115,349 in the previous year. £1,200pp per share has been paid and the improvement in Group Profit can be recommended a Final Dividend of £1,900pp a share, making a total distribution for the year of £2,500pp for the previous year. Interim dividend aggregating £28,923 net final dividend aggregating £76,362 net, totals to the Company from £105,000 to £134,490.

Customer and profit have been maintained in these trading conditions under which our

dering for open competitive work in the industry, several worthwhile contracts were secured at an acceptable level in the light of the effects of high interest rates and

the building industry continues to decline and itself in the competitive tender sector's situation during the ensuing twelve months turnover in this sector in our determinations announced in November 1980 to housing sector, especially growth to be

contributions towards profits from our re-encouraging the expansion of Pitkern and Ventilating Subsidiary, which had a high turnover and profitability, by opening the existing branch in Aberdeen. Again, it is difficult to forecast the current one, but, in the light of what I have said at figures accounting period, I consider

will be directed towards these ends.

ALBERT A. BETT *Chairman*

BETT BROTHERS
The THIRTY-FOURTH Annual Convention
the Registered Office of the Company, 91 Cannon Street, London, E.C.4.
The following are extracts from the

Report to the Shareholders on the
ended 31st August, 1980,
ed 31st August, 1980), after meeting all
before providing for taxation, amounted
31 in the previous year.

cluding minority interest, the profit was £115,349 in the previous year. 2000 per share has been paid and the improvement in Group Profit has recommended a Final Dividend of 1.9000p making a total distribution for the year 600.0p for the previous year. interim dividend aggregating £28,923 net of tax and £1,76,302 net of tax is to the Company from £165,000 to £4,490).

ing for open competitive work in the
try, several worthwhile contracts were
has been progressing smoothly
ned at an acceptable level in the light
the effects of high interest rates and

building industry continues to decline itself in the competitive tender sector, situation during the ensuing twelve months in this sector in our determinations announced in November 1980 to the engineering sector. Secondly, now that the

contributions towards profits from our encouraging the expansion of Pitkern and Ventilating Subsidiary, which had a turnover and profitability, by opening the existing branch in Aberdeen. In fact, it is difficult to forecast the current year, but, in the light of what I have said in my usual accounting period, I consider

maintaining our profit and turnover at
will be directed towards these ends.

ALBERT A. BETT *Chairman*

BUSINESS SERVICES

1-23 Express Typing Service.
67 Chancery Lane, London WC2. 01-404 5464.
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01-589 2111. 01-527903. 01-527903.
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Designers for world markets. Tel. 444365.
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Silldass & tapes on health & safety at work.
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6666.
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0252-673401
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Pilot, jet, helicopter. 24 hrs. 01-353 9744.
Rebeck Executive Air Charter
24 hour service. London airports. 02-812 2245

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Anglo Pacific Shipping Ltd.
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Fast quality framing.
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Sebastian Orrell (Picture Framing).
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British Society for Multiple Sclerosis.
Saunders Welfare, Box 11, Hford, Essex.
Cancer Research Campaign.
21 Cannon Row, London SW1. 01-409 1122.
Centrepoint (Emergency Shelter).
Daily—helps young homeless—Donations: 57
Dorset St., W.1. 01-409 1122.
Children's Charity—Emergency Shelter.
121 New Bond St., W.1. 01-409 1122.
Hospital Savings Association.
Family health insurance. Tel. 01-723 7601.
Imperial Cancer Research Fund.
P.O. Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.2A 3JX.
Imperial Cancer Research Fund.
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RECRUITMENT SERVICES

MARKET REPORTS

Dry cargo sector lifts gloom

The tanker market sank further into the gloomy depths last week and only some drastic action by the owners or a major crisis influencing oil demand can seemingly provide hope of a recovery in the short term.

In the absence of such a crisis it is, as a number of brokers have recently suggested, up to the owners to act either by laying up tonnage or by sending some of their older vessels for scrapping. However, owners are reluctant to lay up their tankers because in the past it has proved to be an expensive occupation and the second option is also unattractive as demand for scrap at present is very low.

Over capacity has been affecting a number of the loading areas of late but the Gulf is by far the hardest hit. At the end of the last month some 30 ULCCs and VLCCs were waiting for cargoes in the Gulf with more than 20 more expected to arrive during March. With the current low weekly level of bookings for such vessels there are too many ships chasing too few cargoes. It is, therefore, perhaps ironical that the world's largest tanker, the 565,000-ton Seawise Giant, was fixed last week to transport a part cargo of 350,000 tons from

Iran to Japan in mid-March at a rate of world scale 34.

Another depressing factor is the volume of tankers booked through the latter part of 1980 with options of storage voyages included after their voyages are also falling.

In January nearly 80 vessels of 18 million tons was so engaged that by last month this had slipped to some 15.2 million tons.

Freight

Contracting this, to some degree, is the rise in the volume of laid up tonnage which has increased by about two million tons since the beginning of the year and now totals around nine million tons. While this helped, a far greater factor in the recovery of the market has been the positive impression that can be made on the prevailing market break-even rate levels.

Market performance over the last seven days has been subdued with the Caribbean zone, the one black spot in tanker chartering over recent weeks, declining. The immediate outlook can only be described

as the bleakest which has faced the market for several months.

By comparison, dry cargo trading has little to worry about although some weakening in rate levels has been apparent. The underlying firm tone of this sector continues and with the world hungry for coal and grain it seems unlikely this will change for some time.

Demand for coal tended to dominate market transactions last week. Interest in North American coal was keen in spite of fears of strike action in the mines when the renewal of a labour contract falls due later this month. Because of this some charterers are holding off from committing themselves, preferring to wait events.

In grain activity there was some easing in rates for transatlantic shipments, as illustrated by a 70,000 tonnet securing \$17.50, reflecting a fall of some two dollars on earlier business. Bookings from the Continent to the Middle East remained a feature. Among other voyage business was an inquiry for tonnage to cover the movement of between 110,000 and 170,000 tons of sugar from Cuba to Canada in 20/25,000 tons lots between mid-April and late September.

David Robinson

Investors still prefer short-term rates

Prices of international dollar bonds were narrowly mixed last week on low turnover, a condition that optimistic market participants prefer to describe as base building for a future rally, writes AP-Dow Jones.

Some recent fixed-rate issues moved up by around half a point over the week, suggesting that the distribution process was nearing completion. Furthermore, several syndicate managers contend that investors are still reluctant to pay current market rates, which require coupons of between 14.50 per cent and 14.75 per cent. Thus, there seems to be little danger of supply pressures arising from either a flood of new issues or dumping of unsold bonds held by underwriters, analysts say.

While there has been little supply pressure, there has also been little client demand, dealers say. Indeed, the available evidence indicates that investors are still allowing the cash flow from their bond portfolios to accumulate in short-term instruments. At the moment, bank deposits yield more than bonds for most of the principal European currencies as well as for the dollar.

A study by Orion Bank shows that interest and principal payments from Eurobond portfolios this year will total

Euromarkets

bonds is restored by a significant drop in short-term rates, analysts say.

However, some bond analysts argue that there is not yet any evidence of a significant business recession developing in the United States, which would drive down the interest rates. Current economic indicators in the United States, still suggest that no clear trend has yet emerged as to the course of the economy.

Mr Charles Geissel, a bond analyst at Hill Samuel and Co., says.

Mr Ian Kerr, who is in charge of the Eurobond research at Kidder Peabody International, says that the United States Government borrowing requirement will be in the region of \$90,000m for the fiscal year ending in September. "As much of this debt burden will be financed in the short and of the market, reflecting current investor preference, short-term interest rates could remain high", he says.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

EUROBOND PRICES, YIELDS AND PREMIUMS				
STRAIGHT DEBT				
	Price	Yield		
France 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Germany 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Italy 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Spain 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
UK 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
US 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Japan 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Switzerland 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Netherlands 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Belgium 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Austria 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Denmark 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Sweden 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Portugal 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Greece 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Turkey 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
India 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
China 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
South Africa 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Argentina 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Chile 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Colombia 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Venezuela 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Peru 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Ecuador 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Bolivia 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Paraguay 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Uruguay 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Costa Rica 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Panama 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Honduras 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
El Salvador 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Nicaragua 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Guatemala 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Belize 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Jamaica 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Trinidad and Tobago 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Guyana 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Suriname 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
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Guadeloupe 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Martinique 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Reunion 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Mayotte 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Comoros 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Madagascar 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Mauritius 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Maldives 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Falkland Islands 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
South Georgia 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
British Antarctic Territory 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Christmas Island 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Cook Islands 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
Fiji 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French Frigate Shoals 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French Line Islands 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French Polynesia 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French Southern and Antarctic Lands 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French West Indies 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French Overseas 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French Territories 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French Islands 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French Dependencies 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French Colonies 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French Protectorates 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
French Mandates 1000 1000	100.00	13.50		
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French Overseas Territories 10				

industrial and warehouse development at Ealing Road, Brentford, to Pearl Assurance (Unit Fund) for over £1.6m. The site was developed to provide about 34,000 sq ft of accommodation and has now been fully let at rents averaging over £3.25 a sq ft.

Conway Relief, who acquired the site for the developers, also let and sold the completed scheme. Pearl Assurance (Unit Fund) was represented by Edward Erdman, who has been retained as managing agents of

The investment, which was introduced by Mason Phillips.

A planning application to develop a marina complex at the head of Portsmouth Harbour has been made by the Hedley Green-tree Partnership, architects, of Portsmouth, on behalf of Arlington Securities, Taylor Woodrow and Whitebread Wessex. The scheme would be known as Port Solent and has been evolved over a number of years, with substantial research on the generation of water-borne traffic. It is thought that the new berths would contribute to local boat building and ancillary industries. The scheme will be presented to the local authority later this year.

Gerald Elv

Aldermaston plant is brought to halt by Civil Service strike

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston where nuclear warheads are being developed for Britain's next generation of strategic deterrent, was among defence establishments affected by yesterday's Civil Service strike.

The submarine base on the Clyde, where 82 per cent of the non-industrial workers obeyed the unions' call, was another. But operations of the Polaris submarine force were not affected.

Those involved in Wintex-81, Nato's biggest command post exercise for two years, which opened yesterday, were hampered by a shortage of communications staff. Signals were dispatched and received more slowly than planned.

It was the second time in succession that a Wintex exercise has been affected by civil servants' industrial action, and as the operation continues for two weeks the unions will have further opportunity to disrupt Britain's participation in it.

Altogether 40 per cent of the 112,000 non-industrial defence employees in Britain did not turn up for work, according to the Ministry of Defence. But the response was uneven, bringing production to a halt in some places such as Aldermaston while in others the effect was minimal.

Worst affected were the Royal Ordnance Factories where 90 per cent took the day off, and the naval dockyards. Five ordnance factories at Chorley, Lancashire; Bishopclee, Renfrew; Bridgwater, Somerset; Glasgow, Gwent; and Nottingham, were forced to close, sending home their industrial workers on full pay. The dockyards at Rosyth (more

than 95 per cent) and Chatham (80 per cent) had to take similar action, while Devonport (35 per cent) and Portsmouth (70 per cent) struggled through.

RAF Support Command workshops were also seriously affected. As many as 98 per cent went on strike at a maintenance unit at Carlisle, while there was a similar response in other centres. The Ministry's Royal Signals and Radar Establishment at Malvern managed to keep going although more than half its Civil Service workforce stayed away.

In Army workshops the response hovered between 60 and 70 per cent. But the Army establishments in general suffered only an 18 per cent loss of labour, and the distribution was patchy.

In Northern Ireland 22 per cent stayed away, but without causing operational difficulties. The Army was most affected in Wales where the strike was 43 per cent effective. Eastern District and Scotland, however, reported little difficulty. In most Army regions the response was concentrated in specific areas such as workshops and similar centres with a high civilian labour force. In London District only 1 per cent stayed away.

Scottish action: About 50,000 civil servants were reported to have supported the strike in Scotland. All airports, government offices, courts and public buildings were affected (Ronald Faux writes from Edinburgh). Railies in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen were well supported and indefinite action began at key military bases.

At Faslane staff responsible for documenting supplies being loaned to nuclear submarines were on strike and at Pitreavie Castle civil servants dealing with maintenance of equipment did not turn up.

Listening to foreign intelligence disrupted

By Peter Heimessey

Among the more worrying pieces of information considered at yesterday afternoon's meeting of the Cabinet committee charged with handling the consequences of the one-day Civil Service strike was the serious disruption to the Composite Signals Organisation, the supplier of essential raw material to the Secret Intelligence Service and the Ministry of Defence's military intelligence establishment.

The Ministry and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office declined to give figures for those on strike in the sensitive area of communications intelligence. But the central operations room in the Civil Service Department, passing strike information to the Cabinet's Economy (Official Civil Service) Committee, will have several sections of the organization's seven listening stations in the United Kingdom and its central installation, the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Cheltenham.

A substantial number of administrative staff reported for work. A Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman said, on behalf of GCHQ: "A low percentage of staff did not turn up and there was some effect on operations."

Union sources put the response to the strike call at 90 per cent among cypher and communications personnel responsible for technical operations at Cheltenham and its sister outstations.

Their action could well mean that the country lost the bulk of one day's worth of signals intelligence, an activity where speed is of the essence. In Whitehall's attempt to monitor the communications of potentially hostile powers.

All but one of the seven listening stations and the Cheltenham headquarters will be back at work today. The exception is the Composite Signals Organisation Station at Bude, Cornwall, which tracks Soviet satellites.

The Council of Civil Service Unions has chosen Bude for selective industrial action which will continue for some time. Whitehall is taking the threat to Bude seriously.



Safe for pedestrians: A maintenance man at work on Heathrow's silent runway yesterday.

Only one person at No 10 fails to report for work

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Believing that they have foiled any Budget delays planned by Civil Service strikers, Whitehall sources were confident last night that the necessary steps would be taken to ensure that the Budget is passed on time. The Government's response to the strike was described as the Prime Minister's strike. Her attitude throughout has been that the strike has been absolutely unjustified.

However, one person in her office disagreed. He was described as a "seconded" or trainee in the Prime Minister's press office, and he alone of the No 10 civil servants did not turn up yesterday.

He will, it is claimed, not be summarily returned to his department but will serve out his term as the parlance goes. Whitehall sources admitted that a fifth of the six hundred staff, apparently mostly junior civil servants, failed to work.

that any value-added tax changes take immediate effect, although it is said that any VAT changes would be a big surprise.

New duties would take immediate effect on goods in bonded stores; that applies to petrol pumps so petrol prices are likely to rise immediately. Studied indifference was described as the Prime Minister's response to the Civil Service strike. Her attitude throughout has been that the strike has been absolutely unjustified.

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Shoppers sail past customs on a pre-Budget spree

From Frances Gibb
Dover

Holidaymakers returning from the Continent yesterday had the chance of a pre-Budget bonanza with customs officials in south coast ports out on strike.

But they showed great restraint, either through honesty, lack of money or sheer ignorance of the dispute.

"Why didn't somebody tell us about it?" complained one traveller on seeing the empty desks behind the red "Something to Declare" and green "Nothing to Declare" channels at Dover. Others feared they might have been caught red-handed and felt it was not worth the risk.

But the chance was not lost on everyone. Two men from Thanet, Kent, came through the customs barrier laden with plastic bags bursting with drink, chocolates, electrical goods and other souvenirs from Boulogne.

"We always go before Budget day," one of them said, "but it did make it that bit more worth it today without the customs."

Customs officers are sure that many travellers had taken advantage of their absence. Mr James Feeney, an official with the Council of Civil Service Unions and a customs officer, said people had been telephoning him and his colleagues that morning to make sure the strike was really on.

More travellers than usual had gone for day trips judging by the cars in the car park: ship's crews, he said, had been aboard with "very long arms".

On a normal day shift about 15 cars from each of 14 ships would go through the red channel and about 20 would be stopped going through the green channel, of which 70 per cent were usually above the legal allowance.

All passengers with something to declare were invited to make use of a so-called "honesty box" into which they were asked to put a form stating what they had imported, and giving their names and addresses.

"But how many people do you think use that?" Mr Feeney said. "It is usually full of notes just taking the mickey."

But Mr Neil Tanner, a traffic marshal, said that the same number of cars as usual were going through the red channel and that drivers making use of the honesty box.

An estimated 250 customs workers were on strike yesterday, representing more than 90 per cent of the workforce.

Home Office count: The Home Office said last night that 2,541 people in the department were on strike, 26.6 per cent of those employed there. (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes.) They included 353 immigration officers, about half the number who would be at work at any one time.

In the prison department, about 700 of the 3,000 administrative grade civil servants did not work. Some prison officers took supporting action, but the running of establishments was said not to be affected.

One militan pedestrian ruffles calm of Whitehall

By Craig Seton

A militant pedestrian in an anti-abusing picket on the Treasury caused the ruffle of alarm in White yesterday as white workers abandoned their d in the picket of the Service and picketed the government departments.

The Treasury pickets call policemen and the pickets were warned about the behaviour: otherwise the day strike in White appeared to have been ma by politeness, good humour pouring rain.

Claims about the effect the strike were many varied, ranging from a rum that communications bet the Foreign Office and esies abroad had been halte a good humour, suggest that the Secretary of State Scotland would have diffi answering questions at Commons today.

The most senior civil serv were not on the picket. Parliament secretaries stay their posts and although s under secretaries and assis secretaries were said to i joined the strike they were to be seen under the umb outside the ministries, y messengers and clerical cers shared picket duty.

The unions involved strictly limited the picket s at each main entrance keep within the Governm

At Downing Street, Mr Thatcher, the Prime Mini son, driving a sports car, Mr Victor Popov, the S Ambassador, swished th barrier and past the pk outside the ministries, y messengers and clerical cers shared picket duty.

The drivers of a laundry and a GPO vehicle refuse cross a picket line and pickets were cheered by thought that the Prime Mini would go without her mail clean laundry. But they fa to spot Lord Soames, the ster responsible for the t Service, who is dealing with their pay claim, leave D Street: huddled grimly in front of a chauffeur-driven, outside the cabinet. A picket said Mr Patrick Leas, the Secretary of State Social Services, had tried point out the error of t ways, but other minis including Sir Keith Jos Secretary of State for Indu and the Scottish Office, the House, had ignored the

A picket said: "We are of the image we have brotles and cups of tea. broly brigade are all in and they will find out o how much they miss us."

The Scottish Office picket said: "Without us t the work the ministers going to have to start u their brains."

Mr Robert Taylor, a cler officer picketing the Fore Office, said work on codes cyphers had been abandon for the

Leading article, page

Picket at Bevin ceremony

By Our Political Editor

Mrs Queenie Wynne, Ernest Bevin's daughter, yesterday closed a closed picket line to attend a Department of the Employment ceremony honouring the centenary of her father's birth. But the Labour movement leadership did not.

Among the absentees were Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, members of the

Shadow Cabinet. Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, and other union leaders.

Regret was later voiced by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, for any distress caused to guests by what he termed action "to disrupt" the ceremony.

Department attempts to negotia a dispensation with the strikers failed.

Business as usual for passengers and flight controllers at Luton airport

By Arthur Reed
Luton Correspondent

Luton airport on a wet and blustery Monday hardly ranks among the world's glamorous aviation crossroads, but yesterday it took on an unaccustomed charm for passengers.

As one of a handful of airports in Britain operating in spite of the strike of civil servants, including air traffic

controllers, it handled 16 airliner departures and 47 arrivals carrying a total of five thousand people to and from holidays in the sunshine.

While no aero engines were started on the runways of Luton and Gatwick, Luton was full of a bustling air. Jet airliners in the livery of Britannia Airways and Monarch Airlines roared off into the low

cloud. In the terminal building, passengers made last-minute purchases, played on space invader machines, or munched piles of sandwiches.

All that activity was made possible because Luton is a local authority airport. Its air traffic controllers are employed by the borough council, not the Civil Aviation Authority. They are not members of the civil

service unions, the withdrawal of whose controller members virtually closed the big air traffic control centre at West Drayton, near Heathrow.

Controllers at Luton, using their radar which includes one of the few secondary surveillance radars in the country that enables them to see the aircraft on screens and to identify them with call sign and height,

handed departing airliners over to other local authority airfield controllers at Southend.

Those controllers saw the aircraft out of British airspace and into the hands of French, Belgian or Dutch controllers. The Luton radar covers an area of 300 sq miles and up to 2,500 ft altitude, so that the airliners had to fly lower than usual.

Economists criticize Government

Two of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's economic advisers criticized the Government progress last night on the

Speaking on BBC Television's Panorama, Professor Friedrich Hayek said he was alarmed at the show movement on union reform. "The minister in charge of it is not in favour of radical alteration. I have no hope that so long as the matter is in his hands the necessary things will be done," he said. Professor Milton Friedman, on the same programme, said he understood that government spending had gone up. The prospects were not very good unless that was corrected.

He blamed resistance from bureaucracy, the Civil Service and the Conservative Party, "not truly united," for the fact that many fine objectives were not being carried out. But he praised the Prime Minister for sticking by her guns, and said a fall in inflation could lead to a strong boom in the economy.

Earl's daughter killed in crash

Lady Joanna Stuart Wortley, aged 21, daughter of Lord Wharfedale, died in a road crash near Cadeby Corner, Lincolnshire, at the weekend. The driver, Mr Patrick Dickinson, is in hospital with head and shoulder injuries.

Water rejection

Delegates representing General and Municipal Workers' Union water employees in Merseyside and South Wales yesterday rejected the employers' 13 per cent pay offer. Three out of the 10 union regions have rejected the offer.

John Conteh charged

John Conteh, the boxer, was last night charged with assault and appears before a Marlborough Street magistrates today. The charge follows an incident at a restaurant in the West End of London.

Lecturers accept 7.5%

Union leaders representing 80,000 lecturers in England and Wales yesterday accepted a pay rise of 7.5 per cent from April 1.

Correction

Sir Philip Dowson, not Dawson as stated yesterday, is the recipient of the 1981 Royal Gold Medal for architecture.

Transport Bill for the guillotine

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

The Transport Bill was successfully guillotined in the Commons yesterday when it was allocated a timetable requiring its committee stage to be completed by the end of this month.

The Bill, which in the eyes of Labour MPs introduces a number of horrid proposals for the British Railways Board, the Transport Docks Board and the National Ports Council, has been dragging itself painfully through Parliament with little to show for the time so far spent in committee.

Yesterday Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House, gave a full and horrendous account of the verbal Olympics showing that in 17 sittings spread over 55 hours only five pages of the 77-page Bill had been dealt with. If they had been dealt with, Mr Pym added, they would still be in committee well into 1982.

As if that was not sufficiently blood curdling, the House further informed that Mr John Prescott, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull, East, had spoken on one amendment for two hours and 40 minutes.

It is most reasonable men, the thought of having to listen to Mr Prescott for more than two hours should have been sufficient reason to pass the timetable motion without further argument.

It is one of the more curious customs of the Commons that if the Government considers the Opposition to be wasting time or progress in its fast on controversial legislation, its only redress is to introduce a timetable motion which itself has to be debated for three hours.

Naturally, Mr John Silkin, leading yesterday from the Labour front bench, expressed his shock and horror that such a motion of time wasting could be made.

One MP brought the House to its toes with an account of what the actress said to the producer and Mr Albert Booth wound up for the Opposition with a final plea that his colleagues had acted with remarkable restraint.

The Tory benches shuddered slightly at the thought of what an unrestrained Mr Prescott might have achieved. But the cries of anguish fell on deaf ears and the motion was carried by 303 votes to 235, a government majority of 68.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Mrs McAliskey a likely candidate

From Christopher Thomas
Coalisland, co Tyrone

Mrs Bernadette McAliskey, the former MP for Mid-Ulster, declared herself a probable candidate for the Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency yesterday, caused by the death last week of Mr Frank Maguire, a close friend of hers.

She also plans to resume work in the National H-Blocks Committee, a body set up to help her husband's life and probably saved hers.

Sinn Fein is also thinking of fielding a candidate, for the first time since 1955, when it captured Fermanagh and Mid-Ulster with two abstentionist candidates who never took their seats.

Mrs McAliskey (née Devlin) spoke of many unanswered questions after the assassination attempt on her two months ago. She said she was indebted to her husband's soldier who saved her husband's life and probably saved hers.

Her right leg is still in plaster and she is using crutches; three of the seven or eight bullets that hit her smashed into bones. Mrs McAliskey said that many questions over the attempt on their lives would probably never be answered. Why, for example, were four paratroopers on hand "almost as I hit the ground"?

They did not belong to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, stationed locally. The four men asked for a telephone but it had been cut by the attackers. The soldiers claimed their radio was not working. Mrs McAliskey said.

The paratroopers, who had arrested the body men outside the bungalow, had left without giving medical help but promised to get it. For about 20 minutes she and her husband were with-

out help until the Argylls arrived at the bungalow on the outskirts of the town.

She lay where she was shot, on the bedroom floor. Their three young children remained calm "and I did not hear them cry," Mrs McAliskey said.

She had expressed thanks to the Argylls who had administered medical help at the bungalow and during the helicopter flight to hospital, especially to one whose name she did not know.

"Had he not given assistance to me and applied a tourniquet to my husband, we would probably both be dead. Certainly, my husband would be."

The Fermanagh by-election raises a number of intriguing questions. The Social Democratic and Labour Party did not officially fight the seat in 1979 because of a bitter internal squabble, but there is little doubt that it will field a candidate this time.

If Mrs McAliskey stands, it is doubtful that Sinn Fein will fight the seat because it will not want to split the nationalist vote.

General election: M. F. Maguire (Ind) 23,398; A. Currie (SDLP) 10,785; J. B. Maguire (UUP) 10,607; P. Acheson (Alliance) 1,070; Ind 4,987.

Neutrality in Ireland, page 14

GLC accused of censorship over 'Romans'

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

The Greater London Council's decision not to increase its grant to the National Theatre because of the play The Romans in Britain was "retrospective censorship", the Arts Council said yesterday.

Mr Kenneth Robinson, Arts Council chairman, said it regretted the decision to penalize the National for just one production out of 16 in a very successful year.

Such censorship was "all the more deplorable" in that the production was approved by the theatre's board, of which the leader and chief whip of the GLC were members.

Mr Frederick Weyer, chairman of the GLC's arts committee, said: "I am very surprised at such a statement, especially in view of some of the recent Arts Council decisions."

Rejecting the charge of censorship, he said the GLC had a right to review what the public was getting for its money.

West End theatres crisis 'a threat to tourism'

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

If the present crisis in the West End theatre were to persist, other industries, including tourism, would be affected, a Commons committee was told last night.

Mr John Gale, chairman of the Theatre National Committee, the body which speaks for the industry, said he had worked in the theatre for 35 years and this was the first time one third of the West End's forty theatres had been closed.

He considered it "lunatic" that the Inland Revenue should be losing so much money because of those closures.

The theatre was the training ground for many people employed in television. "Our theatre and our television are the best in the world by far, and television will suffer if artists are not trained in the theatre."

Mr Gale was giving evidence to the Select Committee for Education, Science and the

Arts on public and private funding of the arts.

In a plea for tax advantages to be restored for "angels"—casual investors in theatrical productions—Mr Gale said they were normally comfortably off, even rich, people, and most enjoyed backing productions as a hobby. But while in 1960 the capitalization for an investor's first play was £5,000, the same play today would cost £100,000 to stage. "For backers it ceases to be a hobby."

A new musical based on the poems of T. S. Eliot, with a cast of 22 was costing £400,000 to present, he said.

His committee wanted pressure nationally and within the EEC for zero-rating of value-added tax for the theatre and a greater contribution to the arts from the independent television companies.

Another witness, Lord Redcliffe-Maud, author of a report on arts subsidies published five years ago, pleaded for the continued financial support of instrumental teaching in schools.

Seal-culling protest despite ban

By Hugh Clayton

About 400 demonstrators against seal-culling walked through London to a rally yesterday despite a government ban on all marches this month.

Their route of almost two miles led from the south side of Westminster Bridge to Speakers' Corner.

They were accompanied by policemen who told them to proceed in groups of 20 at intervals of two minutes without interrupting traffic by walking in the road.

Demonstrators said they had been assured by the police that such activity would not constitute a march as defined by the government.

The demonstration was organized by the International Fund for Animal Welfare to protest against the annual cull of young harp seals which is about to begin in Newfoundland.

Floods damage homes and land in Wales and Dorset

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

Mentally handicapped children were yesterday moved from a special school near Bridgend in Mid Glamorgan as flood warnings were given for several rivers in south Wales.

Flood water edged close to the children's school, and volunteers and adults helped them to move after the warnings that the evening high tide could cause the flood water to rise to a dangerous level.

Unrelenting rain flooded hundreds of acres of agricultural land and some house basements were swamped in Cardiff wardrobe girls and helpers tried to save expensive costumes as water poured into the basement store room of the Welsh National Opera Company.

The Welsh National Opera Company was blocked on roads in Dorset last night as the county's coastal towns were flooded by heavy rain (Our Weymouth Correspondent writes).

Flood protection gear was on standby at West Bay and Bridport as the River Brit threatened to burst its banks.

Corfe Castle, homes flooded with two feet of water and at Swanage workmen pump out houses.

Sandbags were piled on shops at Southill shopping centre, Weymouth, as a river burst its banks flooded a supermarket. Roads between Corfe C and Swanage and Dorchester and Weymouth were closed during the afternoon and other busy routes threatened.

The police Bourne mouth said it was a matter of time before it overflowed and flooded property.

Roads were also blocked from Somerset, and reinforcements were brought at Durdent, near Taunton, as the River Exe threatened to flood the valley.

One crumb of comfort Dorset last night was the port that the sea was rough enough to come over the English Bank, as happened years ago when homes were ruined.

Weather forecast and recordings

Today

Sun rises: 6.26 am
Moon rises: 8.45 am
Sun sets: 5.56 pm
Moon sets: 11.22 pm

First quarter: March 13.
Lighting up: 6.26 pm to 5.54 am.
High water: London Bridge, 4.19 am, 7.5m; 4.49 pm, 7.3m; Avonmouth, 10.01 am, 13.7m; 10.15 pm, 13.1m; Dover, 1.21 am, 6.8m; 1.45 pm, 6.6m; Hull, 4.54 am, 7.6m; 9.08 pm, 7.9m; Liverpool, 1.42 am, 9.5m; 1.59 pm, 9.7m. 1ft = 0.3048m. 1m = 3.2808ft.

A moist airmass covers much of the United Kingdom with troughs of low pressure moving NE across middle districts.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, East Anglia, E Midlands, E England: Bright intervals possible at first, probably rain at times; wind SW, fresh, max temp 12° to 14°C (54° to 57°F).

SE, central S, central N England, W Midlands: Mostly cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle, hill fog; wind SW fresh; max temp 12°C (54°F).

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fs, fog; r, rain; s, sun.

Channel Islands, SW. NW England: Windy, late of Max Cloud, outbreaks of rain, some heavy and prolonged, hill and coast fog; wind SW, fresh; max temp 11° to 12°C (52° to 54°F).

Lake District, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Cloudy, hill becoming drizzly; hill and coast fog; wind fresh; max temp 10°C to 12